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Staging Scott Heim
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at New Conservatory.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Tax panel gives initial OK for DP changes

by Matthew S. Bajko

Despite intense objections from city and county assessors, a statewide taxation board took the first step last week to protect domestic partners from being hit with massive property tax increases when one of the partners dies.

Chaired by out lesbian Carole Migden, the state Board of Equalization voted to publish changes to the property tax rules that will prevent property tax increases on the transfer of domestic partners' real property.

"I am proud to say that the members of the board who voted to help domestic partners save their homes did so partly because they recognize the financial burden placed on surviving domestic partners from the sudden and unforeseen increases in property taxes," said Migden, who rushed back from her father's funeral in New York on a 4 a.m. flight in order to be present for the vote on Wednesday, April 23.

Migden was the swing vote, joining the board's other two Democratic members, state Controller Steve Westly and board member John Chiang of Los Angeles, in approving the measure. The board's two Republican members, Bill Leonard of Stockton and Claude Parrish of Torrance, opposed the rule changes.

"I never met a tax cut I didn't like. This is a first," Leonard said during the BOE meeting last week in Sacramento.

Under prior interpretation of Proposition 13 by the BOE, the transfer of real property to a surviving domestic partner upon the death of the other triggers an automatic reassessment of the property, creating a frequently unbearable tax liability for the surviving partner. In many cases, the surviving partner loses his or her house during the difficult mourning process.

The rule changes seek to remedy that by allowing domestic partners to use estate-planning tools, such as wills and trusts, to become joint tenants and original transferors in the same manner that married couples can in California.

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BOE Chair
Carole Migden

LGBT center deficit is \$642K

by Joe Dignan

The management of San Francisco's LGBT Community Center has spent twice as much as they earned during the eight months from July 1, 2002 to the end of February. The deficit: a staggering \$642,000.

The center only earned approximately \$558,000 but spent \$1.2 million during the same period.

These figures, and other revelations about the center's financial condition, are contained in a partial unaudited financial statement that the center provided to the *Bay Area Reporter* on Monday, April 28.

To keep the doors open, the lights on, and the remaining staff paid, board co-chair Scott Wiener said the center borrowed approximately \$200,000 against its line of credit last



San Francisco's LGBT Community Center faces a huge deficit.

We always were clear with our capital campaign donors that a portion of our \$15.3 million capital budget included a portion for the first year of operations," Wiener told the *B.A.R.* Tuesday, April 29.

Some community leaders have stepped up efforts to help the center.

"We can't take this center for granted," said Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), at a 50th birthday party for Betty Sullivan, founder of Sullivan Communications, on Sunday, April 27. The party, a benefit for the Lesbian Health Research Center, was held at the community center. "If you're not a member now, don't leave without joining. Support it. Or it won't be here for Betty's 51st."

Leno was instrumental in the center's early fundraising efforts.

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Reports of anti-LGBT violence rise

by Zak Szymanski

Reported incidents of anti-LGBT violence rose about 1 percent across the country last year, according to the annual report published by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. At the same time, the number of victims rose by 3 percent, while the number of alleged offenders fell by 5 percent, possibly marking a decrease in the level of gang-like assaults.

These statistics, combined with specific data for the San Francisco Bay Area, were released Friday, April 25 at a press conference held by Community United Against Violence, which reported a 14 percent increase in local anti-LGBT incidents for 2002, with 357 cases reported here. Of those cases, 218 identified as lesbian or gay; 115 identified as female; 68 identified as transgender; 57 were bisexual; 36 were heterosexual; and 22 were questioning individuals. Of the 490 alleged offenders tracked, 348 were male.

Additional statistics released by CUAV indicated that the use of weapons during local anti-LGBT attacks rose, from 19 in 2001 to 33 in 2002. The climate of war, said CUAV, encouraged hate-motivated violence. And while the number of offenders in law enforcement decreased, the overall amount of incidents allegedly committed by law enforcement rose, from 55 in 2001 to 70 in 2002.

Although the national increase could be due in part to better reporting systems, there were some shockingly large spikes in particular cities (Cleveland was up 44 percent, while Houston was up 150 percent), and particular types of victims.

Most notably, both nationally and in San



Hate crime survivors Yvette, left, and Mariah at CUAV press conference.

friend attempted to intervene, she too was punched. The alleged assailants – later identified as Jack Broughton and Jean Earl of Walnut Creek – face a felony hate crime charge and a misdemeanor charge, respectively. They have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Both victims – who gave only their first names – spoke about that evening at the CUAV press conference. Mariah, the woman who intervened in the original attack, said that as the daughter of two queer fathers she had always felt safe in San Francisco – until the night of August 22, 2002. Yvette, who sustained serious

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS



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DPH staffer fired, stay-away order issued

by Cynthia Laird

One verbal mistake has cost a gay health worker his job and resulted in a permanent restraining order being issued against him following a court hearing last Friday, April 25.

Larry Hanbrook, who since October 1997 had been working in the Department of Public Health's sexually transmitted disease unit, was fired April 3 – one day after he allegedly threatened to kill his supervisor, Jacqueline Siller. The comment, made to a co-worker on April 2, was reported to Hanbrook's supervisors and he was terminated the next day.

During a hearing in San Francisco Superior Court last Friday, Hanbrook did not deny the allegation, but told Judge James McBride that it was not a threat, but rather a "figure of speech." Hanbrook represented himself during the hearing, which was held to determine whether to make a temporary restraining order permanent.

"It's not a threat, it's a figure of speech, in the context of 'she's driving me nuts,'" Hanbrook told the judge. "I do admit to having used a figure of speech."

After testimony from the co-worker and Hanbrook, McBride

ruled that the restraining order be made permanent for three years but reduced the distance Hanbrook must stay away from Siller to 25 yards. The judge made that determination after hearing from Hanbrook that he lived right around the corner from the STD office on Mission Street and that following the temporary restraining order had led to Hanbrook having restricted access to his own neighborhood.

The deputy city attorney representing the city, Gina Rocciano, did not dispute Hanbrook's description of the distance.

Alonzo Gallaread, Hanbrook's co-worker, testified in court that he and Hanbrook were in his office talking on the afternoon of April 2, when Hanbrook allegedly said, "I'm going to kill your boss."

"He said he'd be doing the world a great favor," Gallaread testified. "I took it serious. He wasn't laughing or joking."

Hanbrook told the judge that he did not recall the comment that the world would be a better place without Siller.

Gallaread added that Hanbrook then said he would attempt to pin blame on Gallaread, but later admitted to joking about that part.

"I reported it to a couple of

people," Gallaread told the court. "I felt like it was very important."

For his part, Hanbrook blames his outburst on an increasingly hostile work environment and said in court documents that Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, head of the STD branch, "continued to have a very bad 'rep' in the gay community."

Hanbrook traced the beginning of his problems at work to January, when he complained to Siller about the "general lack of sensitivity in our office to health issues in the gay community, and informed her that I found offensive some remarks made at meetings by Ms. [Wendy] Wolf, deputy director."

Hanbrook's court declaration also mentions a deteriorating working relationship with Siller, his supervisor, and alleges he was the recipient of harassing e-mails, memos, and meetings. "It was communicated to me that I was being watched very closely and I was frequently threatened with discipline," Hanbrook stated in court documents.

"As part of this, some office policies were created to apply only to me, or existing policies were invoked which again were made to apply only to me."

Siller did not testify during last week's hearing, although she was in court. Reached Monday, April 28, Klausner said he could not comment on specifics of the case. ▼

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Bevan Duffy holds forum on speed use

by Matthew S. Bajko

In an attempt to focus the city's health establishment on how usage of crystal methamphetamine, commonly called speed, is devastating the gay community and spreading HIV, Supervisor Bevan Duffy is using his office to draw attention to the problem.

Next week Duffy will preside over a special meeting of the Board of Supervisor's City Services Committee to hear about the implications of speed use among gay men and how city resources can be utilized to alleviate the problem.

"Crystal is quietly decimating our community. During 2002, as a candidate, I met gay men of all ages and backgrounds whose lives, relationships, and careers were destroyed by crystal meth usage and addiction," Duffy said in announcing what he hopes will be the first of many forums held by his committee to address issues surrounding San Francisco's HIV and AIDS crisis.

Speed is easily attainable on the streets of the Castro and is widely popular with late night clubgoers. The drug allows users to stay up for hours, days, even weeks at a time. Users of the drug snort it, smoke it or inject it, and are derisively called "tweakers."

The drug has also become a part of many gay men's sexual habits. Adds on Internet meeting sites often refer to PNP, which stands for "party and play" and means using meth while having sex. Users of speed experience

don't consider myself addicted to it, but it was filling a void in my life."

The drug has been a scourge on the gay community for years, but because of federal guidelines that place more emphasis on injection drugs, its impact on spreading HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases has been difficult for researchers to gauge. The city's HIV Prevention Planning Council for the last several years has asked for city epidemiologists to track data on speed users.

"Crystal is an iceberg; we only see a tiny amount of the danger and destruction and havoc it is wreaking on our community," added Duffy, who chairs the board committee. "Crystal is equal opportunity; it compromises the health of men that are positive as much as it puts men that are negative at risk for seroconversion. It is also believed to be a major factor in increasing rates of other STDs."

Duffy, who was joined by Supervisor Tom Ammiano in calling for the hearing, has invited representatives from city departments, health organizations, and individuals who have been affected by crystal use to participate in the meeting.

"I encourage people to come forward and give a voice to the real crisis we face from crystal usage. I especially want to hear from younger people," said Duffy.

The meeting will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, in Room 263 of City Hall. The hearing will also be broadcast live on SFGTV, cable channel 26. Refreshments will be served. ▼



Supervisor Bevan Duffy

COMMUNITY NEWS

KQED objects to penis ad

by Matthew S. Bajko

As a gay-owned San Francisco social marketing firm campaigns for a 2003 Webby Award, one of its advertisements has been pulled due to objections from the local public broadcasting station.

The company, Better World Advertising, has been nominated in the Best Health Web site category for its hivstopwithme.org page. The Web site is also in competition for the 2003 People's Voice Award, with the public voting online at the Webby Awards' Web site for its favorite Web page.

While the company's Web site work is being praised, one of its print advertisements has prompted a cease and desist letter from KQED, San Francisco's public television and radio station. The ad in question is part of the San Francisco Department of Public Health's "Healthy Penis" campaign and features KQED radio talent Michael Krasny, host of "Forum," depicted as a penis with a mustache.

The advertisement, which ran in the April 3 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*, shows Krasny in his radio booth with the ad campaign's main character, the healthy penis, as his in-studio guest. KQED's station marker, 88.5 FM, is clearly shown in two of the four panels in the ad.

The ad's cartoon deals with a caller to Krasny's program who is involved in the leather scene. Drawn as a penis wearing a spiked collar and thong, the caller is asking about contracting syphilis. His partner, also drawn as a mustache-wearing penis, is adorned with a leather biker's cap and thong. The two penis characters are standing next to a bed with a leather sling, with the daddy-type penis barking "Bob, get off the phone and back in this sling!"

The ad campaign uses a humorous approach to inform the community about the recent rise in syphilis rates among men who have sex with men and asks gay and bisexual men to get tested for syphilis.

The problem is that the ad agency did not request permission from the station to use its call letters or personnel in the advertisement.

"While we applaud your intent of providing needed health information to targeted communities, as a nonprofit organization that relies upon public support, we must do all we can to protect the value of our name and trade-

marks. We are therefore directing you to cease any further distribution of this advertisement," wrote KQED general counsel and corporate secretary Margaret Berry in a letter dated April 10 sent to both the ad agency and the health department.

Jeff Klausner, director of STD control for the health department, said he was surprised to receive the station's letter. Klausner, who was a guest on Krasny's show several years ago talking about syphilis, said focus groups responded especially well to the advertisement when tested.

"I was surprised by that letter," he said. "We immediately did what was requested."

After learning of the station's objections, the ad agency changed the name of the host and radio station. But Better World owner Les Pappas said he doesn't see what the all the fuss was about.

"I think it is ridiculous. It shows they are uptight and have no sense of humor," said Pappas. "If they are really supportive of the community, they would have just gone along with it. If anything, they should have had a laugh about it."

Berry told the B.A.R. that the station's objections to the ad have nothing to do with the ad's content or its subject matter.

"It is just a trademark issue," she said. "We liked the ad. It is a nice piece; it makes you chuckle."

According to Berry, it is standard practice for the station to require anyone using its likeness, or that of its talent, to receive prior permission.

"It is important to talk to people before you do anything," said Berry.

As for Krasny, he said he raised no objections to seeing himself drawn as a penis.

"I certainly was puzzled to see my name but I think it is an important campaign," he said. "My reaction is best characterized as puzzled to see us there or me there."

Though he said his family did get a kick out of seeing dad as a phallus.

"It was amusing to my kid to see me as a penis with a mustache. That was certainly a first," said Krasny.

And while he wasn't upset by the ad, Krasny said he didn't quite understand the cartoon's panel of the two penis characters with the sling.

"When I saw the whole con-

traption there on the bed, I didn't know what to make of that. I guess it was humor," he said.

KQED is the first company to lodge a complaint against the use of its name in the campaign. Other companies that have been used in the panels did not raise any objections.

"On that campaign we have a local cartoonist who works with us doing the drawings. We have always added local color to make the campaign kind of fun, just to make it for San Francisco," said Pappas. "So in past ads we had someone shopping at the Gap or getting coffee at Starbucks. This time the cartoonist put in KQED. No one complained in the past. I thought they would like the PR."

In fact, the ad with Krasny in it shows a steaming cup of Starbucks coffee. Pappas said he is surprised the public station would object when large international companies have made no complaints.

"It is funny that the big multinationals, they don't care, yet KQED who really is supposed to be supporting the community and helping get information out to people, you would think they would be the last ones to object," he said.

This is not the first time objections have been raised about the ad agency's work. In fact, local AIDS gadfly Michael Petrelis raised questions about the agency's Webby-nominated hivstopwithme.org page after the agency posted information about bug chasing on the site.

The material in question was a personal story from one of the campaign's spokesmodels who wrote about actively seeking to become infected with HIV. After reading the story, Petrelis fired off a letter to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which funded the ad campaign, wondering if the federal health agency should be financially supporting the site.

Nothing ever came of his complaint, and the campaign has since been launched in six different locales: San Francisco, Boston, West Hollywood, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Orange County. This year the campaign will be expanding into San Diego and the state of Oregon.

The ad firm is elated to be nominated for a Webby this year and is pleased that its work is being recognized on a national level.

"I think it's the quality and the depth of the content and the diversity of views expressed by the next page ▶

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Medical cannabis news roundup

by Liz Highleyman

The struggle continues in California between medical cannabis patients and providers and federal officials determined to halt the distribution and use of marijuana under the state's 1996 Compassionate Use Act, better known as Proposition 215.

Last Thursday, April 24, the California Assembly passed a joint resolution (AJR13) introduced by Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), calling on Congress to halt Drug Enforcement Administration attacks on medical cannabis in the state.

The resolution's passage means that "Assembly members are standing behind a law that their own constituents passed back in 1996," said Leno. "The federal government has no business interfering with the will of the state voters to take care of their own dying and suffering citizens in the compassionate, humane way their doctors recommend."

AJR13, which passed by a vote of 42-38, asks national legislators to authorize states to regulate medical marijuana, amend the federal Controlled Substances Act to allow for a medical necessity defense – as proposed in a bill by Representatives Sam Farr (D-Carmel), Dana Rohrabacher (R-Huntington Beach), and Lynn Woolsey (D-Petaluma) – and end the prosecution and harassment of medical cannabis patients and providers. The resolution now goes to the Senate for approval; joint resolutions do not require the approval of the governor.

Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter* that once the resolution passes, he has bigger plans for confronting the federal government. "I intend to contact our

counterparts in the eight other states that have passed similar laws to Proposition 215, and assist them in passing similar resolutions," he explained. "Then, collectively, we will all go to Washington, D.C. and hold a press conference on Capitol Hill with the message that congressional leaders should wake up. America wants this."

In related news, on April 23, the City and County of Santa Cruz joined a federal lawsuit filed by the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana and seven patients, charging that their rights were violated during a Drug Enforcement Administration raid on September 5, 2002.

"This is an opportunity for us to stand behind the people in our community who are the most need," said Santa Cruz Mayor Emily Reilly.

During last fall's dawn bust, WAMM co-directors Valerie and Mike Corral were held at gun point and arrested by federal agents as patients formed a blockade in an attempt to interfere with the raid. WAMM, which enjoyed the support of local politicians and law enforcement officials, provided free medical marijuana to nearly 300 patients, most of whom are terminally ill. In the wake of the bust, the Santa Cruz City Council allowed WAMM to distribute medical cannabis from the steps of City Hall.

Last week's lawsuit claims that U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and acting DEA director John Brown violated the Constitution and exceeded their authority by targeting medical use of marijuana under the provisions of California's law – use which does not fall within the realm of interstate commerce.

"It's quite significant; it's really

unprecedented," WAMM attorney Gerald Uelmen said of the city's action. "There haven't been any prior [medical cannabis] lawsuits where local governments have joined in."

Demonstrating the gravity of the issue, two California medical marijuana patient-providers recently received federal prison sentences. Local resident Mike Foley was sentenced on April 23 to five months in prison and five additional months in a halfway house after pleading guilty to charges of growing 95 cannabis plants; he is scheduled to enter custody in June. And on Monday, April 28, Steve McWilliams of San Diego was sentenced to six months in jail and three years probation for the cultivation of 25 plants for the Shelter from the Storm medical marijuana collective – the outcome of another in a series of DEA raids last fall.

Finally, a judge in Salt Lake City, Utah, ruled that evidence seized during the November 2001 arrest of Bay Area medical marijuana pioneer Dennis Peron – who helped draft Proposition 215 – and two co-defendants, is inadmissible, which may lead to dismissal of felony charges against the three men. On April 22 Judge J. Phillip Eves ruled that police entered the men's Cedar City hotel room illegally without a search warrant, and that cannabis and cash obtained during the raid may not be used in court. All three were carrying California prescriptions for medical cannabis, but Utah does not have a medical marijuana law.

"I'm glad the Constitution is still alive," said Peron during an interview with Salt Lake City radio station KSL. "I hope that someday we can legalize medical marijuana in Utah." ▼

Help an ailing artist Sun.

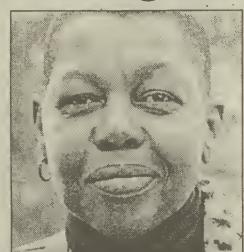
by Zak Szymanski

Few in the queer art world haven't heard of Adrienne Fuze, the acclaimed art activist, cultural historian, and curator.

Fuze, a founder of Lesbians in the Visual Arts and the Queer Cultural Center, and creator and promoter of countless shows and exhibitions throughout the Bay Area, has helped many LGBT artists get their messages out into the public arena. And now it's time, say friends and supporters, for the community to give back.

A sufferer of diabetes, Fuze is currently experiencing a severe health crisis, friends said. She has lost vision in one of her eyes, and her left leg below the knee has been amputated.

"It has been a struggle for her to survive," said a statement from QCC members Pam Peniston and



Artist Adrienne Fuze

Lenore Chinn. "She is facing grave financial considerations and needs our support."

Community members are hosting "an extremely unique garage sale" on Sunday, May 4, to raise money for Fuze's care. "Artists for Adrienne," as the effort has been called, will host the sale, complete with a photo shoot to

create portraits just in time for Mother's Day. Musician Blackerri will provide entertainment, and well-known artists Chloe Atkins, Cathy Cade, Honey Lee Cottrell, Happy Hyder, Jill Posener, Jean Weisinger, and Katherine Westerhout will take the photographs, available for \$20 a print. Unique, interesting, and/or valuable items can be purchased as part of the multi-family, multicultural garage sale. Homemade food and beverages will also be available.

Sunday's event is at 2336 McKinley Avenue in Berkeley, between Bancroft and Channing, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is within walking distance from the downtown Berkeley BART station.

The sale still needs donations, and Fuze's care fund can always use money, so those who cannot attend are asked to help in other ways by calling (510) 547-3369 or e-mailing jdobkin@earthlink.net. ▼

Penis ad

◀ previous page

spokesmodels on the issue of HIV; David Windt, the firm's vice president, said of the site's success as a prevention method. "When you look at other healthcare sites that have been nominated, they

are not as specific as we are on our issue, which is HIV prevention, and yet there is so much credible information and the issues that are raised on the Web site run the whole gamut of the experience of having HIV. And no, we are not afraid to talk about some of the things which make some politicians and others wince."

The agency is asking the community to vote for its site. Voting is open to the public and online ballots can be found at www.webbyawards.com/people'svoice/index.html. The winners of the seventh annual Webby Awards and People's Voice Awards will be announced via the Internet on June 5. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Major drug bust in Castro

by Ed Walsh

A major drug bust in the Castro last week netted a substantial stockpile of GHB and other drugs and resulted in the arrest of three men. Police said the raid puts a dent in the drug trade within the LGBT community and sends an important message that drug dealing will not be tolerated in any community.

"Illegal drug activity is not going to be accepted in the Castro or anyplace else," San Francisco Police LGBT liaison Sergeant Chuck Limbert told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

At about 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, eight police officers armed with a search warrant stormed their way into a residence

at the Casa Sanchez apartments at 407 Sanchez Street. One suspect, Mark Greenberg, 41, was detained in the living room, a second suspect, Robert Serrato, 26, was nabbed by police in a downstairs bedroom.

Police found what they believe to be bottles of suspected GHB in a freezer, kitchen cabinets, a bedroom nightstand, and in a locked box.

"There were gallons of the stuff," Limbert said.

In addition to the GHB, police say they also found what they believe to be crystal meth and miscellaneous drug paraphernalia including 80 syringes.

Greenberg lived in the apartment and told officers that he allowed a third man, Christopher Fritch, 31, to stay with him for one week. Police had arrested

Fritch eight hours earlier at 17th and Market streets for allegedly dealing GHB. Police say they confiscated three bottles of suspected GHB from him along with scales and other paraphernalia linked to drug dealing.

Greenberg told police that Fritch must have hidden all of the suspected narcotics in his home, even some items that were in plain view in a bedroom. Greenberg said the locked box containing the suspected GHB belonged to another man who left it there earlier in the day.

Serrato told police he came over to Greenberg's house to have sex with him and nothing more. He was booked for an outstanding narcotics warrant. Greenberg and Fritch were booked on a number of drug charges. ▼

Poppers under fire in Castro

by Ed Walsh

Despite reports to the contrary, the Consumer Product Safety Commission insists it's not singling out the Castro in its enforcement of the federal law that bans poppers.

Patrick Batt, the owner of the Mercury Mail Order and Auto Erotica stores, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he's noticed a huge increase in the number of people who have come into his stores asking for the drug. The requests, he said, are the result of the customers not being able to buy them from the stores where they usually purchase the butyl or alkyl nitrite inhalants.

"My clerk told me that we got 20 customers in here in one day asking for them," Batt said. "Sometimes I don't get 20 customers in the store the whole day."

Last summer, the CPSC ordered at least two stores in the Castro to stop selling the poppers, which are sometimes marketed as video head, boot, or leather cleaners. That action had a chilling effect on other Castro merchants, causing some to stop selling the products and others to sell them under the counter.

Several merchants in the Castro told the *B.A.R.* that the CPSC recently ordered Jaguar Adult Books to stop selling poppers. Jaguar's owners did not return the

deaths. Wilson also noted that studies have shown that popper use promotes unsafe sex.

Wilson also cautioned about misinformation on poppers on the Internet. He said he's considering filing a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission for allowing companies to promote Web sites that masquerade as objective sources of information about the drug. Wilson said he's confident that an investigation by the FTC will reveal that the sites are paid for by companies that manufacture poppers. ▼

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Dean's inclusive message

Howard Dean brought his presidential campaign to San Francisco Tuesday night, and showed why he has captivated many in the LGBT community with his message of inclusion and his goal to create true "liberty and justice for all" in the United States. Unlike President Bush, who offers merely lip service to the concept of equality, Dean really means it and has the record to prove it. As the governor of Vermont, Dean signed the historic civil union bill three years ago this month, knowing he would face re-election in the fall and that social conservatives would go all-out to defeat him. Dean won re-election and served another term.

As the war in Iraq draws to a close and Bush focuses his attention on domestic issues in preparation for his re-election campaign next year, it's all too clear that he and the Republican Party are shoring up support among the religious right, and that means gays and lesbians are in the crossfire. GOP Senator Rick Santorum's recent antigay remarks only emboldened the religious right, giving them renewed vigor in their efforts to continue discriminating against us. Santorum didn't even get a slap on the wrist for his comments equating homosexuality with bigamy, polygamy, and incest. Rather, the president's spokesman called him "an inclusive man." Last time we checked, inclusive meant "to have as a part." Santorum is not inclusive, and neither are Christian conservatives who make up a core part of the GOP.

Dean, on the other hand, brings new meaning to inclusiveness in presidential politics. He is unafraid to call the Republicans – and at times his fellow Democratic rivals – on their shortcomings. And he has a point when he says, as he did Tuesday, that many Democrats are almost as angry with their own party as they are with Republicans.

Dean's message, and it is important, is that equality is a mainstream issue.

"This campaign is about change," Dean told the crowd of hundreds at the Ferry Building. "I'm tired of being divided by race, I'm tired of being divided by sexual orientation, I'm tired of being divided by religion. We need to get rid of an administration based on fear, and replace it with an administration based on hope."

In the aftermath of the Santorum flap, Dean has been the most vocal in criticizing the high-ranking Senate Republican, who is number three in his party's Senate leadership. "Equating the private, consensual activities of adults to the molestation of mi-

nors is not a policy discussion. It is gay-bashing, and it is immoral."

No presidential candidate is perfect, however, and Dean is no exception. He is on record as opposing state initiatives supporting medical marijuana; yet as we've written before in this space, Dean is a medical doctor and should know better. "I hate the idea of legislators and politicians practicing medicine," Dean said in a March interview with *The Nation* magazine. If elected president, Dean said he would force the

Food and Drug Administration to evaluate medical pot and he would be prepared to accept its findings. While that is certainly more than the FDA is doing now, we're disappointed Dean is not more supportive of the issue. During a visit to San Francisco last year, medical marijuana activists cornered him outside the Board of Supervisors chambers to try to talk with him about a pending Vermont bill that would have protected those who used it for medicinal purposes. Dean did not support the bill as written and later forced it to become much weaker.

On balance though, we're in agreement

I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST YOU HOMOSEXUALS. IT'S HOMOSEXUAL ACTS I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH.



Santorum and Saddam

by Kimeron Hardin

I hate to admit it, but it took the offhand comments of Senator Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania) comparing homosexuality to "bigamy, polygamy, incest, and adultery" last week to motivate me to do something political. He believes that "homosexual acts are a threat to the American family."

Ironically, there was nothing new in the remarks by Mr. Santorum. Our congresspersons have for years disparaged gays and lesbians, openly and without censor. Recently retired Senator Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina) made an entire career of screaming about those "damned lesbians" and Senator Trent Lott (R-Mississippi), once "compassionately" compared gays to alcoholics in need of treatment and abstinence.

Why then, do the casual remarks of Mr. Santorum so offend me and move me to write this column? I think it's because I feel a link between what is happening in Iraq and our current political process that creates both fear and sadness that I cannot ignore. Saddam and Santorum? What am I, another commie pinko liberal?

No, I am an American. Yes, I am a gay man and I do feel personally insulted by Mr. Santorum's remarks. His remarks reflect a good deal of ignorance, not just about ho-

mosexuality, but about what it means to be an elected official in a free country. It seems to me that even if a politician has strong personal feelings about an issue, she or he would avoid alienating a portion of the voting population by keeping his or her feelings private. I would think that an official might consider that even conservative Republicans have lesbian or gay sons, daughters, cousins, or grandchildren that they love. Perhaps there still is some political capital to be gained by exploiting a minority in the media.

What is particularly disturbing to me however is not as much the content of Mr. Santorum's remarks, but his apparent attitude. He seems to want to restrict the civil rights of one segment of the American population, with whom he disagrees, while supporting the military in its quest to increase the rights of the people of Iraq. I don't get it. It's okay for the government to restrict our right to privacy but it's not okay for Hussein to restrict the Iraqi people's rights?

In an age of reactivity to potential terrorist threats and preemptive wars, it has become unpopular to criticize the leadership of this country. Of the many reasons that were used to justify our invasion of Iraq, one most often cited, is to "free the Iraqi people"

with Dean on many of the issues, including a balanced budget, opposing Bush's \$670 billion tax cut, and health insurance for all Americans. His platform on education also is laudable and he spoke Tuesday of the connection between kids getting a good public education when they're younger and lower crime rates when those children become adults. Prisons are the most expensive and least effective institutions in the country, he said, adding that most prisoners would be better off in rehab.

It is less than a year until the California presidential primary, and a lot can happen between now and then. We like what we've seen of Howard Dean so far. ▼



Jane Philomen Cleland

Howard Dean signs a placard in San Francisco Tuesday.

and to help them build a "democracy." On the one hand, we want to conquer a regime that oppresses its people, particularly the Kurds, and install a government that guarantees basic civil rights to everyone and encourages inclusion rather than exclusion. Yet here at home, a high-ranking official in the ruling party expressly dehumanizes a large minority group, openly calling for legal discrimination by supporting government intrusion into consensual adult sexual activities.

Even though we are asked not to talk about it, gay people are serving in Iraq at this very moment. Ironically, gay troops have been fighting for Mr. Santorum's right to express his opinion

that they are disturbed and should not be allowed the same civil rights they are helping to present to the Iraqi people. Thank goodness that Mr. Santorum has the right to express his opinion in this country. I have finally found my voice in the shifting dynamics of this political process and I plan to use it. I hope gay men and lesbians everywhere will also make their views known. It is our duty. ▼

Guest Opinion

Kimeron Hardin is a psychologist and author in the San Francisco Bay Area.

LETTERS

Republican 'values'

Why is that Mr. Santorum objects to gay consensual sex in the privacy of their own homes, likening it to criminal behavior, but he doesn't seem to mind the Republicans sticking their values up our ass any time they want?

Meg Brizzolara
San Rafael, California

Earth to the B.A.R.

Excuse me, but isn't Roberto Friedman supposed to be writing about gossip and entertainment in his weekly "Out There" column in the *Bay Area Reporter*? For weeks now, he's been pounding his readers over the head with his anti-Americanism. Enough already! And while we're on the subject, isn't Victoria Brownworth supposed to be writing about queers on television in her column? Roberto and Victoria, please spare us and leave the politics to Wayne Friday and the editorial page in the front section of the B.A.R.

Earth to the B.A.R.: Not all queers are left-wing, anti-American, knee-jerk peace mongers.

Tom Stanley
San Francisco

Research community under fire

As an openly gay clergyperson living with HIV in the city by the bay, I was appalled, disgusted, horrified, and sadly, not the least bit surprised, by the overtly homophobic guidelines "suggested" to AIDS researchers admonishing them to avoid "unfavorable attention" through use of specific terminology as they seek funding for grants to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Apparently emboldened by the most recent polls that in hindsight, now show support by a majority of Americans for the unjust invasion of Iraq, like those brazen New York cockroaches that infest apartment complexes and city blocks without shame, embarrassment, or equivocation, the Bush administration has lofted this new cluster bomb of hatred and bigotry into the heart of the health research community. It is no accident that the recommended removal (by the NIH and the CDC) of key words from grant application language (i.e., "sex workers," "men who sleep with men," "anal sex," "needle exchange") or the suggested "cleansing" (by removing "gay," and "transgender" references from their terminology) is tantamount to the removal of well over half of the population to which these programs are targeted and most efficacious.

The situation I describe goes much deeper than whether or not researchers should use "politically delicate content." As the world community has all too often witnessed in our lifetime, the removal of words from the vernacular is only the first step; the next step comes with the removal of people. Before long, our beloved Attorney General John Ashcroft, who used loincloths to cover the genitalia of nude sculptures, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who began this current march to war by condemning Iraq's multiple weapons of mass destruction as a direct threat to the United States — WMDs that seem to have vanished in thin air — will replace their crusades against "illegal immigrants" with causes against LGBTs, and substitute propaganda about WMDs with misinformation about PWAs.

These continued homophobic attacks (in the guise of a language debate) with regard to HIV/AIDS research is yet another gradual but steady erosion of the layers of our civil rights, thinly veiled in the fears and foreboding from the 9/11 tragedy. Soon, everyone with whom Ashcroft and Rumsfeld disagree, whether they be queer, immigrant, pro-choice, or non-Christian, may find themselves on the inside looking out. One word of caution: there's not enough room for all of us on Guantanamo Bay.

Thank God I'm part of an out and proud queer religious community that embraces diversity, despite our struggle through the many faces of AIDS. We don't claim to have all the answers, but I know that every time I walk through that door, each and every part of me, every limb, every organ, every fault of my character, every blemish of my body, is appreciated for the wonderful gift from God that it is.

Reverend Joe McMurray
Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco

Davis and foster care bill

I can't figure out where to start responding to Governor Gray Davis's "logic" as reflected by the comments of his LGBT adviser and spokesman in your April 17 article "Davis said to object to latest foster care bill." To quote Mary Poppins, it's often best to start at the beginning.

The governor requires an "opt out" provision in a bill the Assembly passed requiring non-discrimination based on sexual orientation throughout foster care, and training in these issues for foster parents. "If a potential foster parent doesn't want to take the training on sexual orientation," his spokesman ex-

plained, they would not be given gay or lesbian foster children. Hello?

If you can even get by the idea that this governor does not believe that such sensitivity training should be required of all foster parents of all children in California (an enormous if), how in the world is the state (yeah) going to determine which children aged 0 to 18 are LGBT. Anyone with an ounce of sensitivity knows at least that childhood sexual identity is and should be fluid, and most of us believe it should be subject to experimenting for all children. Further, an environment free of prejudice is key for the development of all children. LGBT status of children can't and shouldn't be determined, and shouldn't be the criteria for good training for state-paid parents and employees in these programs in the first place.

But the absurdity doesn't stop with those two outrageous positions. How about, "he doesn't take positions on bills until they get to his desk"? What a lie, first, and cop-out, second, from a man who has worked hard his whole life to be the governor of California — pursuing re-election exceptionally hard last year — the highest state official responsible for determining our laws. Unless he is totally devoid of vision or heart for his own quest, he wanted his job precisely because he wanted to have a big hand in shaping laws, and it is absurd to publicly suggest that you can do so without participating before legislation reaches your desk. And certainly, his office should respond to questions from the sponsor of relevant bills, which according to the article, they have not.

When he vetoed the same bill last year (immediately before a SF LGBT center fundraiser), his rationales ranged from (1) there is no problem, (2) find me someone who has had a problem (Lambda Legal, LYRIC and OFC did), (3) the training is already provided (not), and (4) we don't have the money (its costs are negligible). Imagine him or any governor saying that about fighting race or religion discrimination. This letter does not even address the bill's provision forbidding discrimination against LGBT foster parents.

We should all let the governor know that these positions seriously harm all the children and adults in this state. Let him know your experience as a child or parent at governor@governor.ca.gov or (916) 445-2841 or Capitol, Sacramento, California 95814. Better yet, contribute to the newly named Equality California [formerly California Alliance for Pride and Equality], covered in the same issue of the B.A.R., working for us on this and other important LGBT rights issues.

Charlie Spiegel
San Francisco

Tough times all over

As the B.A.R.'s recent article about the LGBT Community Center makes all too clear, these are rocky times for many nonprofits, especially newer or smaller organizations [*"Fiscal woes engulf LGBT center," April 17*]. At Horizons Foundation, we see evidence of just how tough this economy is every day. As a community foundation, a core part of Horizons' mission is to build strong community organizations to serve LGBT people; we do so as an ally, a funder, a convener, a provider of technical assistance and training, and a spark for philanthropy within our community. The foundation does not do so as an organizational incubator or landlord. While we were happy to sublet a portion of our space — as noted in the B.A.R. article — to Our Family Coalition when the group was not able to expand at the center, we want to make clear that we did not do so as competition to the center. The center's capacity to offer space to smaller organizations is vitally important — and complementary to the foundation's community-building work. Hard times like these make it more important than ever that our organizations collaborate rather than compete. In that spirit, Horizons has long supported the center's work and will be proud to continue to do so.

Roger Doughty, Executive Director
Horizons Foundation

Funk should be thanked

I have to question why you condemn Stephen Funk for choosing not to kill [*"Stephen Funk's folly," Editorial, April 10*]. As members of a community where many would like to see us dead, isn't he to be commended for growing and learning and understanding the people of Iraq are caught in the same situation as we are, with our non-elected "leader"? This is an unjust war and all who speak out are heroes. We should be thanking him in our press, not condemning him.

Happy Hyder
San Francisco

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AB196: Fear-mongering from both sides

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

On April 21, the California state Assembly passed a bill that would help to secure the rights of transgender people throughout the state. Not surprisingly, within mere hours, the media had already taken the offensive against the bill.

Specifically, the bill – AB196 – bans employment and housing discrimination on the basis of gender stereotypes. It was introduced by Assemblyman and former San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno (D).

It is not the first time that such a bill has been introduced in this state. In fact, two previous attempts – AB2142 in 2000 and AB1649 in 2001 – also passed the Assembly only to fail in the Senate. AB196 will face an uphill battle from here on out and – if his track record means anything – Governor Gray Davis is unlikely to sign it should the bill pass in the Senate.

This has not stopped the religious right from trying to quash this bill as quickly as it can. The first piece put out after the Assembly passed AB196 came from WorldNetDaily. This group is about as fair and balanced as Fox News on a bad day.

I find myself unable to resist quoting from the WND site, just to give you an idea of what it thinks such a bill is about:

"This bill would give drag queens unprecedented power to persecute the Boy Scouts and religious businesses, even the power to shut down a Bible bookstore," said Randy Thomasson, executive director of Campaign for California Families, a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan family issues leadership organization. "People aren't going to sacrifice their dearly-held values. What small business or nonprofit organization could financially survive a government investigation and a \$150,000 penalty? AB196 is grossly intolerant of religious freedom and the Boy Scouts. This radical bill engages in reverse discrimination and would do real harm to persons of conscience."

You would think that AB196 would arm transgender people with slingshots and rubber bands, so that we can all run rampant against those poor, defenseless Boy Scouts. Perhaps AB196 also releases the minions of Hell upon the Earth.

The press release made the rounds, being used throughout the week following on both state and nationwide talk shows as the basis for the debate. I was even awakened last week by a representative of Bill O'Reilly's conservative talk show, asking if I would be



willing to talk about – and I paraphrase – "the bill that will force employers to hire cross-dressers."

The problem with the WND release is obvious. None of it is based in truth. In fact, AB196 is a pretty conservative bill as far as transgender rights bills go. First off, the religious bookstores and Boy Scouts will not need to stock up on crosses, silver bullets, or whatever repels drag queens bent on persecution; it specifically does not apply to nonprofit religious employers or businesses with fewer than five employees.

Given that the Boy Scouts have been allowed to hold onto its dated policies against gay males as long as they have, well, I don't see them being worried about AB196. What's more, AB196 doesn't even tackle most business dress codes. The state already established that having different clothing and grooming requirements for men and women is not discriminatory, as long as the requirements are both even-handed and do not put an undue burden on either sex. The only thing AB196 would add to that is that an employer must allow an employee to dress in a manner in accordance with their gender identity.

More so, it does not allow a person to show up in one gender one day, another the next, ad infinitum. Even though other locales with similar laws have not seen any problems regarding cross-dressers in the workplace, AB196 requires a transgender person to dress consistent with their gender identity.

If anything, the WND press release is nothing short of straw man – or should I say straw trans – arguments based on pure fear-mongering. But this has not only been seen in the conservative camp.

A piece published last week by the San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center – usually an organization I have a great deal of respect for – opted to conflate

the rights of transgender people with male sexual predators.

Their concern is that because transgender employees would likely be using bathroom facilities at their workplace, and because born-women might have to share those same facilities, women and girls would be raped and killed by male sexual predators cross-dressing in order to get their kicks in the women's room.

I suppose this might happen after those drag queens finish up with the Boy Scouts.

The argument was very poorly formed: AB196 is a bill about employment and housing: AB196 will not mandate that male sexual predators will be given carte blanche in the women's room any more than they already have. Never mind that comparing transgender people – no matter where they may fall in the transgender spectrum – to rapists and murderers is to yet again fall into the realm of fear-mongering.

Indeed, it would seem that fear alone has managed to bring together two press organizations almost entirely opposed to one another on any other issue. Rather than taking a clear, honest look at AB196, both the Independent Media Center and WorldNetDaily have opted instead to let their own anxiety take center stage. In doing so, they do a great disservice to both the transgender community and to those they claim to serve.

If anything, I hope that – when AB196 reaches the desks of the members of our state Senate – they will vote with an informed mind, rather than in ignorance and unfounded fear. ▼

Gwen Smith assures her readers that no Boy Scouts were harmed in the writing of this column. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and in the recently revamped www.gwensmith.com.

Make plans now for D.C. gender confab

by Zak Szymanski

Berkeley's own well-known writer and scholar Judith Butler will be the keynote speaker at the 2003 National Conference on Gender, taking place May 17-19, in Washington, D.C.

Presented by GenderPAC, and held at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, the third annual

event is billed as "a three-day conference on gender policy, strategy, and policy." The conference is the most diverse of its kind, drawing gays, lesbians, straights, bisexuals, intersexed, trans, and genderqueer people who all have a stake in dismantling gender stereotypes and discrimination. Last year's conference drew more than 1,000 activists from 30 states and 24 colleges and universities.

Butler, author of *Gender Trouble*, an acclaimed feminist text taught throughout the world, joins Patti Chang, president and CEO of the Women's Foundation; and will also take part in a panel discussion entitled, "Who Owns Gender Rights?", with former National Organization for Women President Patricia Ireland, Harvard psychology professor Carol

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Davis recall effort faces big hurdles

by Wayne Friday

Despite the fact that Governor **Gray Davis**'s approval rating has sunk to its lowest point – it's actually lower than any sitting governor in the past 55 years – a recent Field Poll also shows that a recall effort, spearheaded in large part by disgruntled conservative Republicans, is "a bad thing for the state."

Nearly 60 percent of California voters asked in the poll said that recalling this governor – or any other – is not good for government, is far too expensive, and would do little other than to give those who lost the election last November another bite at the political apple.

While even his supporters acknowledge that Davis, rightly or wrongly, has been hurt politically by a number of things such as the huge budget crisis as well as Davis still being blamed for the state's past energy problems (though, in fact, they were the result of his GOP predecessor, **Pete Wilson**, who signed the energy deregulation laws before Davis took office) an actual recall still shows little promise of getting off the ground because the effort is sorely lagging on both necessary funds and petition signatures.

Every California governor since the late Edmund "Pat" Brown back in 1960 (including Davis in his first term) has faced some sort of recall effort but not a single one made it to the ballot, in most part because even more than public sentiment, a recall requires millions of dollars and a strong organization – two elements that have so far fallen short in this current effort. A successful recall of Davis would make him the first governor in California history to have voters boot him from office.

While slightly more than half asked in the Field Poll said they would maybe support a recall of Davis if it were on the ballot, an even higher number felt the idea of having a recall wasn't a good thing.

Those organizing the current move to dump Davis say they need a couple of million dollars to get the necessary ballot signatures to qualify the recall. They have until September 2 to gather some 1.2 million signatures to safely qualify the campaign and sources say that to date, after more than a monthlong effort, they have collected only about 70,000, most of which have apparently been gathered via the Internet, and none of which have been verified.

Ted Costa, a conservative Republican antitax crusader and sometime aide to the late Paul Gann, co-author of the notorious Proposition 13, is leading the recall effort and is trying to rally the state Republican Party and its wealthy contributors to put up the money necessary to hire signature gatherers but is said to be having trouble doing so. One wealthy Republican, Representative **Darrell Issa** (San Diego) reportedly promised to kick in a couple of hundred thousand dollars if others would follow suit. Issa, who had said he wanted to run against U.S. Senator **Barbara Boxer** next year, said he would be willing to

put his name on the ballot as a candidate to replace Davis if the recall effort ever actually qualifies for the ballot.

Roger Salazar, a Davis campaign consultant, last week called the effort to recall Davis the "action of disgruntled conservatives" still smarting over having lost the election last November, and many Californians, even some Republicans, appear to agree with him. Davis supporters are clearly buoyed by the recall effort appears to be lagging and lacks unified support from top California Republicans who are obviously cautious about spending money on what could be at best a risky venture and further diverting attention from re-electing President **George Bush** and defeating Boxer next year.

Still, there is strong support among some Republicans to oust Davis at mid-term and the state GOP officially endorsed the recall effort at its February convention.

If Costa and his followers succeed in turning in enough valid signatures by September, a recall would be triggered next March, just 15 months after Davis's re-election. Should Davis be recalled, voters would simultaneously vote for a new governor who would take power in the midst of the state's ongoing budget crisis. The winner would need only a plurality to become governor. If the entire recall effort fails, Republican activists will have diverted scarce resources from other campaigns that might have had a better chance, and if it succeeds, and if a Republican becomes governor, he or she will inherit a fiscal mess that could quickly become a political death sentence, one longtime Sacramento political observer pointed out.

The bottom line is that the entire recall process is a difficult, very expensive move, and is probably not likely to happen.

Politics and people

Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California), in a speech last week in San Francisco to several hundred business and political leaders attending a Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group luncheon, said she favors immediate return of U.N. weapons inspection teams to Iraq (a move opposed by the Bush White House) and also came out big-time for a BART link to San Jose. Feinstein on the SF-to-SJ BART link: "You have a real advocate in me; we are going to get this done." Meanwhile, those close to Feinstein say that she plans to "work day and night" to make sure that fellow Senator Barbara Boxer is re-elected next year.

Apparently hoping to quiet a political firestorm that began last week when Senator **Rick Santorum** (R-Pa.) equated homosexuality with bigamy, polygamy, incest, and adultery, the White House finally broke its silence by defending Santorum, the number three Senate Republican leader, by calling him "an inclusive man." "The president has confidence in the senator and believes he's doing a good job," White House press spokesman **Ari Fleischer** told reporters nearly a week after Santorum's remarks were first reported. In taking that

stand, the president clearly sided with social conservatives, who had criticized the White House silence on the matter, and against moderate Republican groups and other lawmakers who had condemned the Pennsylvania senator's antigay remarks. Not long ago it was something that former Senator Majority Leader **Trent Lott** (R-Mississippi) said about segregation that got him into political trouble, eventually forcing the White House to relieve him as Senate leader. Hell, it's called "Republican hypocrisy" folks; in other words, it's okay with George Bush and the Republican Party to be homophobes, but not racists.

Meanwhile, in Peoria, Illinois last week the city joined others in the state in banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Peoria City Council voted to amend its human rights ordinance to protect gays and lesbians against discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations. Similar ordinances have been adopted in cities like Bloomington, Champaign, Decatur, and Springfield, but not in Chicago.

The curtain fell on **Charlton Heston** this past weekend as he made his last appearance as president of the National Rifle Association in Orlando, Florida. Heston, 78, who announced last year that he has symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's disease, used his celebrity as the public face of the NRA for five years to get pro-gun Republicans elected; he will be replaced by **Kayne Robinson**, a former GOP state chair in Iowa.

Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) got loads of well-deserved statewide press coverage for the Assembly passage of his AB196, which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender stereotyping. If the bill passes the state Senate as expected, and is signed by Governor Davis (who has not yet taken a position on the bill) it will make California the fourth state in the nation to ban discrimination against transgender people. Minnesota, Rhode Island, and New Mexico have already done so.

Sudden thought: Shouldn't the office of city controller be an office elected by the voters instead of a long-term appointment? And when someone recently asked me who I thought was the most popular politico in San Francisco, I immediately answered: **Mike Hennessey**. I don't think he has an enemy in town.

Supporters of mayoral candidate **Gavin Newsom** will host an early Cinco de Mayo celebration in support of their guy at Don Ramon's, 225 11th Street, on Friday, May 2, 6-8 p.m. (\$10; call 415-359-0230, ext. 150 for info).

My "Quote of the Week" comes from none other than President Bush, commenting during an interview with **Tom Brokaw** on NBC about the comment from **Natalie Maines**, the lead singer for the Dixie Chicks, saying in London last month that she was "ashamed" that Bush was a fellow Texan. Bush: "I mean the Dixie Chicks are free to speak their minds; they can say what they want to say and they shouldn't have their feelings hurt just because some people don't want to buy their records when they speak out. You know, freedom is a two-way street."

And how was your week? ▼

San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council

The community planning group that oversees the prioritization and allocation of Ryan White CARE Act Title I and II funds used to provide services for people living with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties) invites and encourages members of the public to attend their meetings and provide public comment.

The Planning Council usually meets the fourth Monday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 PM in the Mayor's Conference Room (Room 201), San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett (on Van Ness Avenue, between Grove and McAllister Streets.)

Meeting info: www.SFCareCouncil.org
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After Santorum

by Dale Carpenter

There are two things all reasonable people can agree on. First, Democrats are better than Republicans on gay issues. Much better. Even when you find a gay-friendly Republican, his Democratic opponent is almost always better. Wherever there's an antigay initiative brewing, Republicans are stirring it. And when something idiotic is said about gays, it almost always comes from a Republican mouth.

The second thing reasonable people can agree on is that we'd be much better off if none of the above were true.

The real question has always been, how do we get from here to there?

One side says we should cozy up to the GOP, work from the inside to undermine homophobes, dispel stereotypes through our open participation in the party, and reward small Republican nods to equality in order to encourage more such progress.

The other side says we should just beat the GOP into submission.

Into this old debate walks Rick Santorum, the third-highest ranking Republican in the U.S. Senate. Ruminating on the constitutionality of antigay sodomy laws, Santorum recently told the Associated Press, "If the Supreme Court says that you have the right to consen-

sual [gay] sex within your home, then you have the right to bigamy, you have the right to incest, you have the right to adultery."

Santorum quickly attempted to clarify these remarks, saying in a press release, "My discussion with the Associated Press was about the Supreme Court privacy case, [and] the constitutional right to privacy in general....

My comments should not be misconstrued in any way as a statement on individual lifestyles."

The first Santorum statement suggests, "Courts will be unable to distinguish between gays and others, like polygamists and adulterers." It is a slippery-slope argument that says, in effect, "We must refuse to make a sound decision today for fear of having to make a sensible distinction tomorrow."

Santorum's second statement implies, "I, however, am personally able to distinguish gays from these others."

Does Santorum really believe he can make simple distinctions while judges trained in making them cannot? The law is not a completely foreign thing. The kinds of arguments you make to your friends are often made, in specialized language, to courts.

One could persuasively argue to a person of sound mind that gay sex in itself is not socially harmful and so can safely be protected as a "right" against the nosy preferences of other citizens. But polygamy, incest, and adultery are socially harmful and shouldn't be similarly protected as "rights."

There's just no excuse for what Santorum said.

So what's the GOP's excuse for him? Critics of the Republican Party have made much of the fact that he could say such things and keep his job. Democrats called it proof that Republicans are all bigots. Indeed, although a handful of prominent Republicans criticized Santorum, most Republican leaders offered at least tepid support. Through his spokesman, President Bush belatedly called Santorum "inclusive."

Still, the GOP is improving, incrementally. It's noteworthy that no Republican leader (other than the

execrable Tom DeLay) has endorsed the substance of Santorum's actual comments, as opposed to defending the man's political position. I suspect they privately think his comments were ill-advised but were loath to lose a second top Senate leader over casual remarks in the space of six months.

The White House has taken no public stand on the pending Supreme Court sodomy case, though it could have, and in an earlier era would have. While Bush doesn't have the gay-rights zeal of a PFLAG parent, he's done some positive things, like hiring openly gay people and retaining an executive order banning anti-gay discrimination in federal employment. The only people critical of him for this within his party are religious conservatives. Bush needs their support to win re-election and he's doing about as much as he can on gay issues without completely alienating that political base.

So how does the Santorum controversy affect the old debate about strategy between gay Republicans and gay GOP-bashers? The fact is, not much, because it doesn't alter two basic truths.

Both sides ignore that what is moving the Republican Party in the right direction more than anything else is a culture that's evolving to accept gays. The pace may seem slow but the overall direction has been one way. We might be able to nudge the party a little faster through one method or another, but whatever we do the GOP can't forever stay mired in a discredited past and hope to win elections in the future.

The other thing both sides ignore is that there is room for both strategies. We needn't put all our eggs in one political basket. Those of us who generally favor less regulation, lower taxes, and a strong national defense should stay and work inside the GOP, despite these occasional troglodyte eruptions. Those gays who favor "social justice" and worldwide peace through marches should throw stones at the GOP, despite gradual improvements.

Some see these divergent strategies as evidence of "division" when we need "unity." I say it's smart politics. ▼

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Duh

by Jane Warner

Arcos gas station, 2400 Market, April 24, 2:30 p.m.: As a man walked by the Arco filling station, three men gassing up their vehicle motioned for him to come over. The men told him they had computers for sale and showed him several computer boxes in the trunk of their car. The man said he was interested, and walked across the street to an ATM and withdrew money, giving the men \$350. The men gave him a box from the trunk of their car and then drove westbound on Market Street. When the man opened the box, however, he discovered it contained only newspapers. The suspects – all between the ages of 20–25 – were described as African American, 6 feet tall, and about 180 pounds. One suspect wore a leather jacket over his white shirt. The suspect's car was a brown Lincoln or Cadillac.

Get shorty

Badlands Bar, 4121 18th, April 22, 11 p.m.: Two men and a woman attempted to walk into the bar but were stopped by the doorman. The bouncer could tell the trio had too much to drink and refused service. Angry, one of the men tried to push past the bouncer, who forcibly blocked his path. "Don't touch me!" yelled the suspected drunk. Suddenly, the suspect turned and without warning



struck the doorman in the face with a closed fist. The doorman fell to the sidewalk and the suspect continued punching him several times. The bartender was alerted to the fight by patrons and ran outside to help. Seeing the drunk assaulting the doorman, the bartender grabbed the assailant in a bear hug but the suspect turned and punched him in the chest. The alleged drunk – described as a white male, 5 feet 8 inches, 210 pounds, with a muscular build, 20–25 years old, wearing blue eyes, a green sweater and blue jeans – broke free and ran westbound on 18th toward Collingwood. Officers were unable to locate him and his companions. Paramedics treated the bouncer for a broken nose and cuts to his face.

Polite conversation

I19th and Church, April 14, 12:10 a.m.: Two men walking near Dolores Park heard someone running down the hill behind them. As the runner approached, he pulled out a black semi-automatic handgun from his pocket and asked the men, "Cash? Money?" Seeing the gun, one of the men started screaming, held out his wallet, and showed the robber he had no money, but offered to take him to an ATM. The robber turned his attention to the other man and patted his clothing, taking his wallet and cell phone. The suspect fled eastbound down a

flight of stairs and into the park where he was seen talking to another man. Both men got into an older white Toyota pickup truck and drove eastbound on 20th Street. The armed robber is described as African American, 5 feet 8 inches, 135 pounds, 25–30 years old, wearing dark clothing.

Pushed their luck

Sliders Diner, 449 Castro, April 27, 1:55 a.m.: After the bars had closed, two men entered the diner and went directly to the restroom. After about 15 minutes, other customers complained because the men were taking too long. When the manager knocked on the door, a voice from inside yelled, "Fuck you. I just got in here." When the men finally came out, they threw soiled toilet paper into the manager's face. A mutual fray ensued and the manager was pushed to the ground where the assailants repeatedly kicked and punched him. One of the suspects picked up a chair and threw it over the counter, striking the cook in the arm. Both suspects then fled the restaurant only to return a short while later and throw a brick through the front window. The brick struck the manager in the jaw, cutting the side of his neck. A witness called 911 on his cell phone and followed the suspects as they ran across Castro and stood in front of Walgreens. Responding officers arrived and arrested them. The suspects, ages 20 and 27, were taken to Mission Station and booked for aggravated assault, conspiracy, and vandalism to property. ▶

Cops investigate Castro rape report

by Ed Walsh

San Francisco Police are investigating a report that a woman was allegedly kidnapped, robbed, and gang-raped for three to four hours in an alley in the Castro. Investigators cautioned that although they are taking the report seriously, they have found no physical evidence that would corroborate the woman's story and they are asking for any witnesses to come forward.

Community United Against Violence issued a safety alert after learning of the incident late last week. Tina D'Elia, CUAV's hate violence survivor program director, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that CUAV considers the attack a hate crime because of homophobic taunts the suspect allegedly used toward the lesbian victim.

The woman, a 31-year-old Canadian tourist, reported the incident more than two days after it occurred and subsequently has been uncooperative with investi-

gators.

"We have kind of a nightmare situation," San Francisco Police sex crimes Inspector William Kidd said, referring to the difficulty in getting the woman to cooperate.

The tourist, whose name has not been released, told police she was attacked early Sunday morning, April 13, shortly after leaving a bar in the Castro. She reported the incident on Tuesday night, April 15, at her hotel in South San Francisco after getting into a dispute about paying her room bill.

Police were called to the hotel after the woman became "out of control" when she explained why the credit card that she used to check in was no longer valid. She said that three men raped her in San Francisco and that the suspects stole her credit cards, apparently maxing them out. She told police that she got another credit card number from her girlfriend in Canada but the hotel wouldn't accept it because she didn't have the card in her possession.

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↑ May Events ↓

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TV star helps nonprofit grant 'dream trips'

by Joe Dignan

Feisty. Firebrand. That's how most reviewers have understatedly described Michelle Clunie's character, Melanie Marcus, in Showtime's three-year mega-hit, the network's biggest ever, *Queer as Folk*.

The reality is more abrasive. "Listen you bleeding asshole," said Melanie in an episode from the show's second season, "I'm a lawyer. We have a contract," to a French caterer who was trying to back out of a deal to arrange Melanie and girlfriend Lindsay's wedding.

In real life, Clunie, in a sharply decorated 26th floor suite in San Francisco's W Hotel, is dressed all in black, high heels and a plunging neckline offering fleeting glimpses of her dancer's figure — as might Melanie.

Clunie insisted that Melanie's assertive character is a part of hers. "It comes out when I'm pushed. It's an aspect of me," she said, "but unlike Melanie, it's not what I lead with."

She's here to promote the upcoming "Runway" benefit on May 29 that Clunie and QAF co-star Scott Lowell, who plays Ted, will host for San Francisco's Destination Foundation, which sends people with life-threatening illnesses, many with AIDS and breast cancer, on dream trips.



Jane Philomen Cleland

From left, Destination board prez Vy Le, actress Michelle Clunie, and director Tim Hepworth at a launch at Mecca Sunday for the upcoming May 29 benefit. The restaurant "donated everything for the party," Hepworth said.

The foundation was started in 1998 by Tim Hepworth. Since then, the foundation has given away close to 100 trips, he said.

These trips, Clunie said, are not about granting a last wish. They are about a revitalization of the spirit that travel gives. A new perspective.

"Often when you have an illness like that, you do tend to become isolated and your life becomes about doctor appointments, and you start to go inward," Clunie said. "It's not about living, it's about hanging on to life."

"And when you look back on your life and you think about the times that really jump out at you — the special moments, those magical moments — quite often they're filled with traveling and experiencing something and being with someone that you love."

Clunie smiles broadly, plunks down in her chair, spills her coffee, hastily mops it up, and goes on.

"Your senses are heightened. And when your senses are heightened, and you know life may be coming to an end, you start to see things for the first time. You experience them for the first time. Things are more precious."

"It's pushing yourself to stop living on automatic," she added.

The foundation has no staff, only volunteers, and Hepworth himself works full time, for no money at all.

Started by Hepworth's original \$5,000 donation in honor of his partner, Jim Poole, an American Airlines flight attendant who died of AIDS complications in 1997,

the foundation now has a budget of about \$200,000. About 70 percent of that, according to Hepworth, comes from individual donations — not foundations or corporations.

"We have to compete for those personal dollars that are so precious," said Hepworth.

The Runway show, Clunie and Hepworth promised, will be travel themed, with an airport lounge entry area, a runway for the fashion show, and a virtual flight plan to a surprise Asian destination.

Hepworth said that because the organization gets so little foundation support, they are forced to be especially creative in their fundraising from individuals. Previous events included a dance party for 1,000 people at Ruby Skye with Clunie, an online raffle for a trip to the QAF set with Clunie as hostess, and an evening — sponsored in part by Microsoft — hosted by Clunie, called "Tails of the City," where local artists decorated computer mice, and now this.

As it turns out, Clunie spends much of her off-duty time working for Destination Foundation.

"She's actually really sweet. I don't know what she's talking about," said Hepworth. "I've never seen any of that Melanie stuff."

Runway, the fashion show, will be at IMGhome, 1830 Harrison Street on Thursday, May 29 from 6 p.m. - 1 a.m. Tickets range from \$75 to \$1,000. For more information about the show, or to apply for a dream trip, call (415) 477-9097 or go to www.destination-foundation.org.

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KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents.

Safety Information

KALETRA should not be taken with Halcion®, Hismanal®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Rhythmol®, Seldane®, Tambocor™, Versed®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, ergot derivatives or products containing St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription, and herbal preparations you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist. KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which can be fatal, have been reported. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. In patients

taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

In clinical trials, the most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity were: abdominal pain, abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. This is not a complete list of reported side effects.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

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Tax panel

◀ page 1

Currently, San Francisco is the only city and county in the state that does not reassess the property of domestic partners. However, the tax board's lawyers have objected to the city's ruling and asked for it to be rescinded. Migden introduced the proposed changes to the state's tax rules as a compromise measure.

"These rule changes implement the intent and will of statute and represent the step-by-step process in assuring equity for all Californians," said Migden. "The community has been enlivened to fight discrimination because it signals the degree to which we still need to participate to protect our rights."

The action by the board begins the public process of determining the scope and language of the regulations for review by the Office of Administrative Law. Upon approval by the OAL and filing with the secretary of state, the regulations go into effect 30 days later.

Final approval for the rule changes will not take place until July and, if passed, opponents of the measure will likely sue in court to have the changes over-

ruled. Marin County Assessor Joan Thayer, president of the California Assessors' Association, said the BOE's move goes against its jurisdictional powers.

"The position I take and the California Assessors' Association takes is that the proposed additions to the board rules are unconstitutional because they go beyond the board's scope of authority," Thayer told the *Bay Area Reporter* after the BOE's vote. "Only the people of California can exclude real property from taxation through a constitutional amendment."

The assessors' association does not intend to sue but Thayer predicted the matter will land before the courts.

"I believe they will be challenged in court; it may come from a county," she said.

While she personally believes domestic partners should be granted the same rights as married couples, Thayer said she disagrees with the method the BOE is taking. And she said the association does not believe the language of the measure will prevent fraudulent use of the new rules.

"The way the rules came about is so broad it will enable anyone who has joint tenancy to gain eligibility. Because of that, the state

stands to lose a lot of money," contends Thayer. "It applies to both commercial and residential properties. The state is facing a \$40 billion deficit and this would result in a massive amount of money taken off the tax rolls."

Migden disputes that argument and maintains that the regulations have been carefully crafted so that tax-avoidance transactions do not occur.

"Their claim of lost revenue is very specious. There are only 21,000 registered domestic partners," said Migden.

As for the assessors who argued against the proposed changes, "There was a curmudgeonness to them," Migden said. "We are interested not only in fairness for the LGBT community but also in fairness for the taxpaying public."

And while she accords the assessors their right to make objections, Migden said it is the board's responsibility to make policy decisions.

"The assessors oppose it and that is within their purview. They are assigned the difficult task of tax collection," she said. "But to serve as an assessor is to apply statutes in the law and not necessarily to be policymakers."

Thayer also raised objections to how fast the proposed rule changes were introduced and voted on by the board. Migden first proposed the changes at the board's March meeting and a month later brought them up for a vote.

"This particular process did not follow any rule making process which I am used to. It was pushed through very quickly," said Thayer. "Usually you have months and months of time in which to submit comments and examine what has been promulgated by the board staff. We had very little opportunity to make a very cogent response and point out some of the deficiencies in the rules."

But for gay couples worried about losing their homes if their partner dies, the rule changes cannot be enacted soon enough.

"Thinking over the last 20 years what this meant to people ... there is a lot of anger there," said Alameda resident Leslie Defacio, who choked up thinking about other gay people who lost their homes due to the reassessment of their property. "To be on a fixed income and then being hit by something like this and being told 'Well, you can just sell your home.' It doesn't always work that way." ▼

Anti-violence

◀ page 1

ous injuries from the attack, told reporters that she believed she was going to be killed that night, and that the assault "has really impacted how I walk in this world."

Still, she said, she has decided not to let the attack paralyze her, and is healing by speaking out and pursuing justice through the legal system.

To emphasize to the judge that the hate crime charge against Broughton should remain in place, members of District Attorney Terence Hallinan's office said that it is important that members of the community continue to show their presence during court-room appearances.

The next scheduled hearing for Broughton is Tuesday, May 6, at 9 a.m. in the Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant Street, Department 20. Supporters are asked to wear red in solidarity with the victims. ▼

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ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

KALETRA® (kul-LEE-trah)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-rih-tuh-uh-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check-ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-uh-se) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium complex* (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.

Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.

Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.

Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.

Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.

When you take KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacist. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.

Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

• Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

• Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

• Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.

• Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, DHE 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others

• Halcione® (triazolam)

• Hismalor® (astemizole)

• Orap® (pimozide)

• Propulsid® (cisapride)

• Rhythmol® (propafenone)

• Seldane® (terfenadine)

• Tamoxifen® (tamoxifen)

• Versed® (midazolam)

• Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

• Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum), an herbal product such as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.

• Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

• Do not take KALETRA with the oral contraceptives (the "pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

• Efavirenz (Sustiva®) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.

• If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

• A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

• Other Special Considerations:

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

• If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

• What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

• This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

• The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abdominal pain, abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

• Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

• Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

• Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

• Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors; others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others need new diabetes medicine.

• Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking KALETRA. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

• Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

• There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

• If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.

• If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.

• If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.

• If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.

• If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

• Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.

• Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.

Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pleasure yourself, help others this month

by Zak Szymanski

May is National Masturbation Month, but instead of wearing awareness ribbons or weeping for the less manually inclined, community members are encouraged to take part in a variety of events designed to celebrate what the sex toy store Good Vibrations calls the "gratifying yet under-appreciated activity of solo pleasure."

Good Vibes kicks off a sale today (Thursday, May 1), at its retail locations in the Mission, the Polk, and Berkeley. Other highlights for May include an online "masturbation roundtable," on Salon.com, featuring staff from Good Vibes and other premier sex shops: Toys in Babeland, Grand Opening, and Come As You Are; and in-store appearances by masturbation authors and experts.

Additionally, a party in honor of the month will take place at Red Devil Lounge, 1695 Polk Street at Clay, on Thursday, May 15 from 8-10 p.m. Good Vibrations shoppers will receive free entry to the club until 10 p.m. and will be eligible to win dozens of sexy prizes. Drink specials include \$2 "Come Shots" served all night and \$1 off all other drinks including "Screaming Orgasms," "Blowjobs," "Buttery Nipples," and "Sex on the Beach."

"Masturbation is an elemental component of healthy, happy sexuality for so many people," said author and Good Vibes sexologist Dr. Carol Queen. "The popularity of National Masturbation Month reflects the Good Vibrations motto: if you want something

done right, do it yourself!"

Come for a cause'

There is a bigger vision to all this self-gratification, and that is the goal of raising money for charitable efforts.

The annual nationwide masturbate-a-thon takes place over the weekend of May 16-18. Participants are encouraged to recruit their friends and co-workers to sponsor them for every minute they spend masturbating during those days. Co-sponsored by Good Vibes, Toys in Babeland (New York and Seattle), Grand Opening (Boston) and Come As You Are (Toronto), proceeds raised will go toward the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Since the inception of the event five years ago, Good Vibrations has raised and donated over \$25,000 to various organizations dedicated to promoting safer sex, HIV prevention, and AIDS education and awareness. Many individuals, groups, and businesses participate, collectively raising thousands of dollars.

In San Francisco, funds raised through the Good Vibes masturbate-a-thon will go to the AIDS Health Project of San Francisco.

At Toys in Babeland, Seattle and New York masturbators will raise money for Brooklyn's Audre Lorde Project and Pocan, Washington state's People of Color Against AIDS Network. A schedule of Seattle and New York events can be found at www.goodvibes.com.

There is a political aspect to the masturbation holiday as well; as Toys in Babeland points out, in the 19th and 20th centuries, Western

doctors blamed masturbation for a range of sicknesses, prescribing "treatments" like spiked erection deterrents and clitoridectomies. Although much has changed since then, much hasn't, and with an HIV rate on the rise, abstinence-only education programs continue to censor condom and masturbation information in schools.

Throughout May, Good Vibes will also promote the Berkeley-based Sperm Bank of California, a 20-year-old nonprofit specifically aimed toward lesbians and women who have historically faced discrimination in the sperm bank industry. Good Vibes will help to recruit sperm donors for the organization, which will in turn help to recruit masturbators to benefit AHP.

"The Sperm Bank of California is excited about participating in Good Vibrations' Masturbation Month," said Sperm Bank of California Executive Director Alice Ruby. "We hope this event will encourage men between the ages of 18 and 40 to masturbate for another excellent cause — helping women's dreams of building a family become a reality, by becoming donors."

It should be noted that like most sperm banks in America, the Sperm Bank of California does not accept anonymous sperm donations from men who have sex with men.

Pledge sheets for the masturbate-a-thon are available at Good Vibes locations: 120 Valencia Street, 1620 Polk Street, and 2504 San Pablo Avenue, in Berkeley. Pledge sheets and more information can also be found at www.goodvibes.com.

LGBT center

◀ page 1

Other donors, however, raised questions about transferring funds from the capital campaign to cover expenses.

"Mixing of funds is a no-no," said Don Spradlin, who was a distinguished founder, a donor to the capital campaign, and has a background in administering nonprofits. "I'm a pragmatist, and whatever gets us along probably works. But the big problem is that the rent is not enough to cover costs."

Spradlin said that he doesn't envy the board's position.

"When you're first starting out, you don't have any reserves or any experience," he said.

The realities of the center's finances are daunting. It owes its bankers \$2,382 million. The bank has extended the date for a balloon payment of \$800,000 on that loan from May 1 to the same date next year. The payments on that loan alone are \$11,000 a month.

The center is also being sued by its contractors, although the board has disputed their claims. In their lawsuits, the contractors claim they haven't been paid the \$850,000 final retention payment for the building. Those lawsuits, and potential judgments, loom over the center's plans.

Wiener said that the center, in the past few weeks, has taken steps to stem the flow of red ink. The center has laid off or let go six employees and, he said, has started a general belt-tightening. Executive Director Brian Cheu left on Fri-

day, April 27, relieving the center from continuing to pay his approximate \$7,000 monthly salary, but leaving it without a leader.

"We are now cash-neutral," said Wiener, adding the center is taking in as much as goes out every month, including the payments from the building fund.

Wiener said that the center will begin working on a strategic plan to carry the center past what Wiener and co-chair Randi Gerson have refused to call a crisis, but only after a new executive director is in place. Wiener said the list of potential executive director candidates is down to three, and all are cognizant of the center's difficult financial situation. All are still interested, Wiener said.

"We've shown them everything. The last thing we'd want to do is not show them. We have not negotiated salary. That would be the last step in the selection process," Wiener said.

Wiener refused to disclose the center's sources of income, saying that the center is "doing a reconciliation of our accounting system and our donor database." But the center is a long way from hitting the target it established in the recently revised budget. Wiener made available on Monday. The center forecasts \$1.9 million in income by July 1. As of the end of February it had managed to pull in only \$558,000.

"We're going to come in under.

"I don't know what the numbers will be," Wiener said. "It's cash-flow — that's what matters now."



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Rick Santorum
firestorm dies down

by Bob Roehr

The controversy that swirled around Senator Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania) and his comments on gays and the right to privacy lasted through several media cycles but appears to be dying out by the end of April.

That public debate illustrated both the continued second-class status of gays within the political process and American society, but also the remarkable advances that have occurred over the last several years. In 1988, then-Majority Leader Trent Lott's (R-Mississippi) comparison of homosexuality to alcoholism and kleptomania raised barely a ripple in the mainstream media.

The cycle began with remarks that Santorum made in an interview with the Associated Press that was published on April 22. He said of the Texas sodomy case now before the Supreme Court: "If the Supreme Court says that you have the right to consensual (gay) sex within your home, then you have the right to bigamy, you have the right to polygamy, you have the right to incest, you have the right to adultery. You have the right to anything."

The Human Rights Campaign led other community organizations in condemning Santorum's remarks and called for him to step down from his third ranking Republican leadership position in the Senate.

Democratic presidential candidates Howard Dean, John Kerry, and Joe Lieberman were among those taking the lead in condemning Santorum's remarks. A San Francisco television station reported that a local HRC gathering with candidate John Edwards on April 23 was closed to the press at the demand of the candidate, because he did not want to talk about Santorum.

HRC spokesman David Smith said the local steering committee has organized a series of "drop by" meetings where HRC "Federal Club" members and key supporters can meet Democratic presidential candidates when they come to town.

The rules of the invitation are faxed to each candidate and clearly state that the media will be invited to attend. Edwards's campaign seemed to agree with the ground rules but at the last minute, the press secretary "freaked out," according to what Smith was told, and threatened to cancel the appearance if reporters were present who she had not invited.



George Bush

Senator Rick Santorum

ted beforehand. Smith was "disappointed" with the outcome.

Four moderate Republican senators publicly urged Santorum to apologize for his remarks, though others reportedly urged that action behind the scenes. Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) issued a statement saying that Santorum was "a voice for inclusion and compassion ... to suggest otherwise is just politics."

"Santorum is usually a good politician about meeting constituents and listening to concerns, but he never gave us anything, or if he did, it was certainly scraps," said David Greer, president of Log Cabin Pennsylvania for several years.

Greer believes that individual gay Republicans have supported Santorum, but the organization never gave him any money. A search for "Log Cabin" of the Federal Election Commission records found no contributions by either the state or national groups.

For three days, White House press secretary Ari Fleischer fended off queries on Santorum and the sodomy case behind those comments. Finally, on April 25, he asserted that the senator was "an inclusive man."

The statement was a finessing of intense political pressure from those on the social right associated with James Dobson and Focus on the Family to support both Santorum and "the family," and the pressure for "inclusion" that came from Log Cabin Republicans and the broader American public.

Santorum was not surprised and only mildly disappointed by the limited condemnation of Santorum by fellow Republicans. He said, "You can look at the silence in a good way," as Republicans not being comfortable with Santorum's remarks but unwilling to alienate their conservative base by speaking out against them.

And when Republicans did speak, they generally defended the man, not his ideas.

In addition to the comments made earlier this month, reports surfaced this week about a letter

Santorum sent out just after the September 11 terrorist attacks to raise funds for an antigay group's fight against same-sex marriage.

Pundits and editorials

"It's obvious that [Santorum] is a moral fascist, and is becoming the voice of the American Taliban. He is one of the evermore strident family fanatics. What he misses, among many other things, is that society exists for the individual; the individual does not exist for society," said longtime gay activist Frank Kameny.

"John F. Kennedy drew a distinction between his public role as president of a diverse country and his own private religious convictions, Santorum explicitly argues the opposite," wrote gay conservative Andrew Sullivan on his Web blog. "How can we have any hope of creating a democratic government in Iraq free from domination by repressive religion if we cannot free our own laws of official faith-based biases inflicted on our fellow citizens?"

"America does not need a sex police," said Bill O'Reilly, perhaps the most popular conservative commentator today. "It's a waste of time and resources."

"The legal framework matters," wrote the *Washington Post* in an April 24 editorial. "Mr. Santorum is espousing a worldview, and a disturbing one. On one side are defenders of the 'healthy, stable, traditional family.' On the other are practitioners of what he calls the 'right-to-privacy lifestyle.'"

He is "advocating the right of states to sic their police on two consenting adults in their own homes. You don't have to be pro-'anything' to know what's wrong with this. ... The fact that many people disapprove of it does not justify sending the police to knock down doors and barge into bedrooms."

"The Ozzie and Harriet world he yearns for doesn't exist anymore, if it ever did," editorialized the *Baltimore Sun* on April 23. "Repeated divorce and remarriage, along with the public acknowledgment of gay relationships once kept in the shadows, have radically changed the composition of many families."

Turning to the Texas case that prompted Santorum's comments in the first place, the *San Francisco Sun* urged the Supreme Court to "define some zone of private intimate behavior where moralizing politicians with no higher purpose than imposing their beliefs on the choices of others can no longer tread."

In taking on Santorum's religious parallel of love the sinner, hate the sin, columnist Richard Cohen concluded, "He does, I think, raise a profound question that he ought to answer himself: If you have the orientation of a moron, do you still have to talk like one?" ▼

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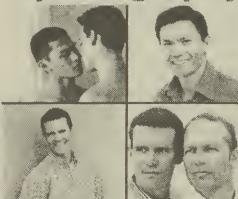
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OBITUARIES

Thomas Walton Christensen



Thomas Walton Christensen died at Maitri hospice on April 22 from complications of AIDS. He took his final breath in the arms of one of his dearest friends. His loving family and his chosen family had nursed him through his illness. Tom was 45 years old. A memorial service will be held at 3:30 PM on Saturday, May 3 at All Saints Episcopal Church at 1350 Waller Street. Please join us to celebrate Tom's life.

Though he was born in Nebraska, Tom was a San Francisco native. After attending Sonoma State University, he made his home in the Bay Area. He left a career in the book publishing industry in 1997. He endured many setbacks from the illness over the years but fought fearlessly to retain his independence.

Tom was remarkable in many ways. He was an artist, a writer and a filmmaker. He took great pride in working as Associate Producer on the Harry Hay documentary. Tom, though, considered his friends to be the greatest treasure life had given him. He will be deeply missed by all.

Donations can be made in his name to The AIDS Memorial Grove and Maitri Hospice.

Michael Kocina



A community leader, entrepreneur, philanthropist and teacher, whose decades of work in San Francisco influenced countless people, died April 9, 2003 of complications from cancer at his home. He was 63. Born in New Prague, Minnesota, Dr. Kocina lived for 33 years in San Francisco. He was the founder of more than 20 businesses, including San Francisco Home Services Center, Grandma's Housecleaning, Alchemy Party Service, Dijon Galleries, K/F Productions, K&R

Bar owner George Bankovich dies

by Bob Ross

Longtime San Francisco bar owner George Bankovich died Friday, April 11, at his home in South Lake Tahoe. He was 66.

The cause of death was a heart attack. Mr. Bankovich was one of the finest men I had ever met. He was a caring, giving



man who always was willing to give a helping hand or money to many worthy causes.

Mr. Bankovich was born August 8, 1936 in Van Voorhis, Pennsylvania.

He will be remembered best for the fun bars he ran on Polk Street. The Rendezvous was located in the Leland Hotel,

page 19 ►

Builders and Kocina/Fleischer Properties. Most recently he was a partner in American Marketing Systems Inc., a specialty Real Estate firm with Robb Fleischer and Zoya Lee Smithson.

Dr. Kocina helped establish the Castro Village Association, San Francisco Association of Better Neighborhoods, Let There Be Gifts For Less Fortunate Children, and the Give the Gift of Sight recycled glasses program. He also served on the board of the San Francisco Council of Entertainment and was a national representative and local president of United Voluntary Services.

A practitioner of old school mannerisms and kindness, Dr. Kocina earned the respect, love and admiration of all that knew him. His curiosity and insatiable appetite for life brought much joy to friends and family. He was one of a kind and the impact he had on family, friends and colleagues will be in numerous hearts forever.

The family requests that memorial donations be made in Michael's name to Dr. Alan Kramer's Foundation International Institute of San Francisco "Living With Cancer" Project #207LWC, 657 Mission St., suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94103, Attn: Paul A. Aguilar.

A celebration of his life was held at Shakespeare's Garden in Golden Gate Park on April 26.

Malcolm Dhu McCay

Malcolm Dhu McCay died on April 12th, 2003 in the Hospice Ward of Laguna Honda Hospital where he had been a patient for six years. Malcolm suffered three strokes in 1994 following brain surgery for an aneurysm. He was paralyzed on his right side and unable to speak. Nevertheless he was constantly cheerful, intellectually alert and a delightful companion for his family and many friends, and for the hospital staff all through the nine years of his confinement.

Malcolm is survived by his brother, Bert McCay of Wrangell, Alaska, and by many nephews and nieces. Malcolm was pre-deceased by his other brother, Alan McCay, and by his two half-brothers, Everett and Joe Petticrew, all of Wrangell, Alaska where Malcolm was born.

Also surviving is his partner and companion of 43 years, Steve Kellogg. Both men were active in the Gay Movement in the early '60s and long-time residents of San Francisco.

A memorial service will be held in the Third Floor Library of Laguna Honda Hospital, 375 Laguna Honda Blvd., San Francisco, on June 7, 2003 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, gift offerings may be made to the Laguna Honda Hospice Project.

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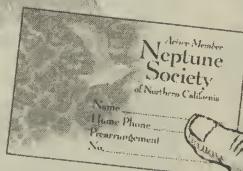
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OK, making funeral plans in

advance isn't at the top of your to-do list. But it's far worse for everyone if you simply wait.

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The producers

by Jim Provenzano

It's springtime for Fell Street, or at least in Hayes Valley, where each day brings a new wide open view of our fair portion of San Francisco.

Huge piles of concrete boulders are all that remain of the Market Street overpass. The past few days of rain have left us with a fresh view, and a lot of confused drivers.

Tear down your athletic inhibitions by attending these upcoming events, and supporting your local and visiting jocks.

Billy club

You wanted gay baseball stories? Here's the biggest gay baseball story, and it's not just gossip. Meet former Major League Baseball player Billy Bean this Friday, May 2, at A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books at Opera Plaza, 601 Van Ness Avenue. (415) 441-6670.

At 6 p.m., enjoy a "meet and greet" with Bean and the friends of Team San Francisco.

At 7 p.m., Bean will be discussing his new book, *Going the Other Way*, an autobiography of his life in sports, and his struggles with coming to terms with his homosexuality. Co-written with

journalist Chris Bull, it chronicles his rise among the ranks for three pro ball teams, and his retirement brought on by his much-publicized coming out.

Team San Francisco co-director Ross Hayduk said that "for our friends in the East Bay," on Saturday, Bean will be at the White Horse Saloon in Oakland from 5-8 p.m.

For more information visit www.teamsf.org and www.book-store.com/us.html.

Bowled over

Congratulations to the San Francisco Shockwaves for hosting the flag football Super Bowl II last weekend. The steadfast pigskin warriors had a great turnout, with teams from all over America competing for the second annual event.

Cloistered away on grassy fields a touch better than their usual stomping grounds at Dolores Park, they played 10 games over two days.

The championship games at St. Mary's Recreation Center resulted in Los Angeles taking the trophy after running the exhausted Chicago team through to a 25-point lead. One sidelined Chicago player mentioned that L.A.'s having twice as many players had something to do with it.

But one man, Los Angeles' Desmond Adams, had a lot to do with his team's win. He ran swiftly and frequently over the Windy City's best efforts, making four touchdowns.

Fortunately, the punishment was over before the rain clouds swept over the fields for the day. Here are the scores:

Saturday, April 26 first games: Los Angeles 49 - San Diego 19 Boston 28 - Atlanta 21 San Francisco 49 - Chicago 26 Boston 31 - San Diego 12 San Francisco 39 - Atlanta 18 Los Angeles 50 - Chicago 25 Sunday, April 27 results:

Sports Complex

First playoff round
Chicago 45 - San Francisco 18
Atlanta 49 - San Diego 48
Los Angeles BYE - Boston BYE
Semifinals
Chicago 45 - Boston 34
Los Angeles 40 - Atlanta 12
Championship Final
Los Angeles 54 - Chicago 24

For online results, and photo galleries of the Super Bowl II and previous games, visit www.sfshockwaves.org.

Do run run

Sometimes, a marathon is a large event to tackle, so to speak.

Without funny costumes, even the Bay to Breakers can be daunting.

Fortunately, Bay Area Distance Runners, the local runners in our community, many of them track and field medalists, have been organizing the BADR Half Marathon for several years.

This year's event takes place Sunday, May 11, which is also Mother's Day. Just a reminder.

"The course is being re-rolled, as we do every year," said organizer and runner par excellence Dave Studach. "The start and finish has been arranged, and a special surprise has been arranged at the end of the race."

Studach recently got all the medals for the event, "and they're beautiful!" he said. "Don't lose out on the chance to have one hanging around your neck."

Get info and a copy of the registration form at www.sfbadr.com. Also, visit www.sffrontrunners.org.

Park place

Whether you run or ride, in San Francisco, there's always a scenic route.

Upcoming events on wheels include the 2003 Ron Wilmot Bike Ride for Project Inform on Saturday, May 10.

Enjoy seven leisurely miles



A Chicago flag footballer takes a well-deserved rest.

Jim Provenzano

through Golden Gate Park, in the fundraiser for the AIDS treatment information nonprofit. Donate to a rider, just ride along, or meet riders starting at Peacock Meadow, Register at 9 a.m. and ride at 10.

Visit www.projinf.org/develop/wilmot2003.html for info and registration forms, or call (415) 558-8669, ext. 223.

Order on the court

Tennis courts around the city will be lobbed and mobbed by gay and lesbian competitors when the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Tennis Federation welcomes more than 200 competitors (many having brought home medals from Sydney's Gay Games VI), May 22-26 for U.S. Gay Open 2003.

Besides being the world's first-ever lesbian and gay tennis tournament, they'll also host a bunch of fun social events.

Late registration may still be available this week. Visit www.gltf.org/usgo.html for info.

Look for my tennis feature coming up next week.

Mat-erial

Golden Gate Wrestling Club's 18th annual Memorial Day weekend Freestyle Wrestling Tournament May 23-26 at Eureka Valley

Rec. Center, 100 Collingwood Street and 18th. Grapplers from Los Angeles, New York, San Diego, and other cities regularly attend the weekend clinic, competition, and social events.

Freestyle wrestling (sorry, not nude, oil, Turkish or that weird stuff they rent at Superstar video) will fill Eureka Valley Rec Center, and at the parties, coach Gene Dermody will no doubt offer pans of delicious Costco cuisine.

Also, don't miss the club's SF Eagle Tavern beverage benefit on Sunday May 18, from 3-6 p.m. Wrestlers and beer, always an amusing combination. Visit www.ggwc.org for info.

Lord of the rings

Wrestlers around the world were happy to learn last month that Jim Scherr, the U.S. Olympic Committee's chief of sport performance, has been asked by acting USOC President Bill Martin to oversee the day-to-day operation of the organization until an interim chief executive officer is selected by the executive committee.

A 1988 Olympian in freestyle wrestling, Scherr won two silver medals and a bronze in World Championship competition. He took silver in the 1987 and 1989

next page ▶

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COMMUNITY NEWS

U.N. postpones gay rights vote

by Liz Highleyman

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, meeting in Geneva, Switzerland Friday, April 25, postponed until next year a precedent-setting resolution on human rights and sexual orientation.

The proposed resolution expresses "deep concern" about widespread worldwide human rights abuses and calls on all nations to promote and protect the rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation. It is the first U.N. resolution ever to oppose human rights violations against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people; transgender con-

cerns were not explicitly addressed. Amnesty International reports that people face torture, imprisonment, and discrimination around the globe due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"We are very disappointed that the Commission on Human Rights has chosen to postpone action that affirms the basic human rights of the world's gay, lesbian, and bisexual population who, along with the transgender community, are routinely subjected to discrimination and inhumane treatment," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign. "Lasting global peace begins with basic human rights

for all the world's citizens."

The resolution was put forward by Brazil and supported by countries including Australia, Canada, Japan, Russia, and the European Union. Opposing nations included the Organization of the Islamic Conference, several African countries, and the Vatican, while China and India were believed to be leaning against the resolution. Cuba and some other Latin American countries reportedly were waffling about whether or not to support it. After several attempted amendments, a bloc of countries proposed that consideration of the resolution be deferred; that proposal passed 24-17 with 12 abstentions.

The United States delegation voted by a slim margin to support consideration of the resolution.

Early reports indicated that the U.S., while supporting consideration, would abstain from voting on the resolution itself. Michael Heflin of Amnesty International's OutFront program told PlanetOut.com that a representative of the group had learned about the U.S. decision at a State Department briefing last Tuesday, April 22.

"Governments of the world lost the opportunity to finally confront human rights abuses against sexual and gender minorities," said a statement from the queer Muslim group Al-Fatiha, referring to the postponement. ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

Worlds and a bronze in 1986. He was also a three-time U.S. National Champion. From 1990-2000, Schert served as executive director of USA Wrestling, the national governing body for the sport.

The announcement came one day after Lloyd Ward resigned as CEO of the U.S. Olympic Committee under yet another cloud of scandal that kind of makes you glad ours isn't called the Gay Olympics.

Marco. Polo.

Craving hot muscled men (and women) in Speedos tossing balls around? Can't wait for IGLA 2003, the GLBT swim meet this August at Stanford University?

Get an early dose of some of the greatest teams in the world at the US Cup Water Polo World Challenge. Squads from Yugoslavia, Australia, Slovakia, Canada, and the U.S. will battle it out, peacefully, in pools at Stanford's Avery Aquatic Center, May

15-18.

Along with the matches, autograph sessions, and parties, a clinic will be held (\$55). Tickets range from \$12 for a one-day student pass, to \$15 for adults. There is also a \$45 "Patriot Package," a four-day pass that does not include the right to loot Stanford's art museum.

For info, visit www.uswaterpolocup.com.

Underwater cameras hooked up to huge TV screens would be a good idea, but I doubt they will be set up for this event.

Until then, visit www.sftsunami.org and www.igla.org to sign up for swimming or volunteering at their August IGLA 2003.

Scubacali-fragilitous

Looking for a fun, wet spring mini-vacation? Get wet suit chummy with Rainbow Divers. They have regular monthly dives at Point Lobos Shore, and other trips aboard the Silver Prince. Upcoming events include a full moon shore dive at Breakwater on June 14.

For membership info contact Jim McDermott at (415) 206-

1868, e-mail Membership@RainbowDivers.org or visit www.RainbowDivers.org.

Bowling balls

If you're seeking a more uplifting way to express your fandom, ask yourself: Who would streak at naked bowling? The clothed?

"It came in the nick of time," writes Hunter S. Thompson, for ESPN.com, about the bare balls and pins version of bowling, performed by the thousands, according to him, but only available for non-participant viewing on the Canadian Playboy Channel.

"The whole nation was getting jittery from too much war news, and the sporting public was demanding wilder and wilder government-sponsored sport spectacles, to blot out the grim horizon."

Apparently for those bowling naked, it's a liberating experience.

Not to doubt an esteemed journalist who "now lives in a fortified compound near Aspen, Colorado," but my search to verify Thompson's story revealed lots of Web sites selling "Naked Coed Bowling," T-shirts, and a Toronto

group for men, whose other social events include the potentially hazardous nude coffee hour.

Rope

Here's an event you won't find performed nude, although it would have an interesting aesthetic appeal.

The Golden State Gay Rodeo Association's Bay Area chapter announced this year's San Francisco Bay Area Gay Rodeo and Festival would be held at the Driscoll Ranch in La Honda, California on June 21 and 22.

The new location is very "country" and reminiscent of a more traditional California rodeo site. Polish up your pointy boots, dust off your Stetson, and just hope PETA doesn't show up.

Actually, if you've been to a gay rodeo, you know they are quite animal-friendly. And chaps can be appealing outside of the Eagle.

For more info, visit www.bayarearodeo.com or call (415) 561-9228.

Read previous articles, with links to local and global sports teams, at www.sportscomplex.org. ▼

Gender confab

◀ page 8

Gilligan, and writer/activist and GenderPAC Executive Director Riki Wilchins.

Other workshops throughout the weekend address topics such as reconnecting gender, age, race, and class; gender and the media; intersex mutilation; international human rights and gender transgression; gender and the military; gendering desire; locker room issues; and reforming gender identity disorder. Special tracks for

students and researchers include the Gender Law Institute; Gender Theory and Politics; Gender Connections; and gender youth workshops and discussions.

As is custom, entertainment and special events will accompany the weekend. On Saturday, May 17, the Great Big International Drag King Show will be held at the Black Cat, 1811 14th Street, NW; tickets are \$15 and should be reserved in advance by calling (202) 462-SEAT. And on Sunday, May 18, a congressional brunch and silent auction will honor Congressman John Lewis (D-Georgia), IBM, and

Georgia Equality. Tickets are \$75 (general admission), \$50 for conference registrants, and \$25 for youth. Tickets can be purchased during registration.

And wrapping up the weekend will be GenderPAC's annual "Lobby Day;" on Monday, May 19, interested participants will take their message of gender equality to Capitol Hill and spend the day educating Congress on hate crimes, workplace fairness, and safe schools.

The 2003 National Conference on Gender promises to be three days of information, inspiration and activism," said conference organizers. "From the first plenary session on Saturday to the Lobby Day on Monday, the schedule is shaping up to include an exciting mix of thinkers and activists and an astounding range of topics."

Conference fees are \$150-\$200; some package deals that include lodging may still be available. To register for the conference, visit www.gpac.org or call (202) 462-6610. American Airlines is offering 5 percent discounts to conference travelers; call (800) 433-1790 and mention the "Starfile" number S1853AH. ▼

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APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265676-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Dauntless Promotion, 659 Scott Street #10, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jennifer Daunt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 28, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/28/2003.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265692-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Motel Brazil Imports, 404 Broderick Street, San Francisco Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Andrew M. Della Rocca. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 28, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/28/2003.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-54066

In the Matter of the Application of Robin Alison Gilmore For Change of Name. The application of Robin Alison Gilmore for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Robin Alison Gilmore has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Mikal Robin Gilmore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of June at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540664

In the Matter of the Application of Jo Lili Howard For change of Name. The application of Jo Lili Howard for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jo Lili Howard has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Josephine Lillian Howard. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of June at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03540673

In the Matter of the Application of D'Aarez Zeru O.C. Loggins For Change of Name. The application of D'Aarez Zeru O.C. Loggins for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that D'Aarez Zeru O.C. Loggins has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to D'Aarez Zeru O.C. Woodard. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 5th day of June at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265865-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The UPS Store, 660 4th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Joseph M. Corpion and Stephen Portaro. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/04/2003.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266088-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Paul Ave Hand Car Wash, 49 Paul Ave, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Scott D. Roberts. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 14, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/14/2003.

APR. 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

Castro rape

◀ page 11

The tourist described the attack to police in detail, telling officers that she was dragged into an alley after leaving a bar in the Castro around 12:30 a.m. She said she had four shots and two beers during the two and a half hours she was in the bar. She didn't know the name of the bar, but it was obvious from her description that it was The Café on Market Street. The woman told officers that before leaving the bar, she felt nauseous and faint and that she believes that someone may have spiked her drink.

The woman refused to take any forensic medical tests and returned to Canada in the morning following her dispute with the hotel. She hasn't returned investigators' calls since returning home.

San Francisco Patrol Special Po-

lice Officer Jane Warner told the B.A.R. that following the report, she has scoured the area for any witnesses but has so far come up empty-handed. The veteran Castro beat cop said that because of the heavy pedestrian traffic in the Castro on Saturday nights, it would be surprising if no one witnessed the assault as the tourist described it.

The woman said that the assailants put a burp sack over her head and were drunk, loud, and possibly taking drugs during the incident.

In its alert, CUAV wrote that it is "encouraging all communities to avoid leaving your drinks unattended and to avoid leaving clubs or parties by yourself at any time."

Sex crimes Lieutenant Rich Corriea told the B.A.R. that although he couldn't recall any recent incidents of drink spiking in gay clubs, police routinely get two to three reports each week in clubs

throughout San Francisco. Corriea noted that because of the law prohibiting smoking in bars, many patrons leave their drinks unattended while they smoke outside.

"If you take your eyes off your drink, you might as well throw it away," he cautioned.

Corriea echoed Kidd's com-

Bankovich

◀ page 17

which was burned out of business several years ago. He also owned Reflections, with its charming staff and mix of fun patrons.

Mr. Bankovich really hit the big time when he bought the White Horse in Oakland. His partner in the business was Lance Hafner, an old friend of many years.

He is survived by his companion Billy Finn, his brother Steve

Bankovich, four sisters: Mary Ann Svetkovich, Dorothy Berg, Mildred Sechrist, and Frances Sullivan, along with several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held in Bentleville, Pennsylvania. No flowers please; donations in Mr. Bankovich's memory may be made to the American Heart Association.

A celebration of life will be held at Reflections, 1160 Polk Street on Sunday, May 4, from 3-7 p.m. All are invited to attend. ▼

STATEMENT FILE 0266088-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Paul Ave Hand Car Wash, 49 Paul Ave, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Scott D. Roberts. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 14, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/14/2003.

APR. 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Redevelopment Agency is seeking Statements of Qualifications from experienced professional property management firms, together with appropriate subcontractors, to provide property management, landscape maintenance, janitorial, general maintenance, security, and other services related to the operations of Yerba Buena Gardens.

Pre-submittal meeting and Yerba Buena Gardens tour for prospective contractors: 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, 2003, at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum located at 701 Mission Street, San Francisco. Statement of Qualifications Due: May 23, 2003. For a (RFQ) contact: Denise Blades, at (415) 749-2438 or Denise.Blades@sfgov.org. San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, 770 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102.

The RFQ is also available on the Agency's web site at www.sfgov.org/sfra. DCYF announces the availability of funds for a collaborative to conduct an eleven-month pilot program for Youth Funding Youth ideas.

Up to \$450,000 is available for the period of August 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004, to pilot a youth philanthropy program as one of the primary models for DCYF to support youth-initiated projects. Services should focus on developing and implementing a model for youth philanthropy in San Francisco that involves youth at all stages of the philanthropy process, including a pilot grant-making process.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be available for pick up on Monday, April 28, 2003, between 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM at: DCYF, 1390 Market Street, Suite 900, San Francisco, CA 94102. RFPs will not be mailed. Closing date for submission to DCYF is Monday, June 2, 2003, by 5:00 PM. Late proposals will not be accepted, regardless of postmark. No electronic or faxed submissions will be accepted.

A non-mandatory Bidder's Conference for all interested applicants will be held on Thursday, May 8, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in DCYF's conference room at the above address. RFP information, instructions and required attachments will also be available on the department's website at www.dcyf.org. For more information, please contact: Ken Bukowski at (415) 934-4844.

CONTRACTORS TOWN HALL MEETING

SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPU) is hosting a Town Hall Meeting to promote construction and consulting contracting opportunities available under the Airport Commission, Community College District, Department of Parking and Traffic, Department of Public Works, MUNI, Port, and SFPU. Attendees will also be able to speak with contract administrative and enforcement agency representatives. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2003, at 1:30 PM, at the Koret Auditorium in the SF Main Library, Lower Level, 100 Larkin Street. In addition to prime contractors, local and minority contractors are encouraged to attend to learn about subcontracting opportunities and benefits under the City's M/WBE Program. A comprehensive bid/project prospectus will be issued to interested contractors' business planning efforts. Attendance is free of charge. RSVP is not necessary.

COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Announces the release of a groundbreaking report entitled, "A Report on Girls in San Francisco, Benchmarks for the Future," which is the first of its kind analysis and review on the status of San Francisco girls on social, economic, educational, health and criminal justice issues.

We are requesting your participation in the release of this report, which will be presented to the public on Thursday, May 8, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. at the Women's Building, 100 Lorde Rm., 2nd Flr., at 3543 18th St., San Francisco. We hope to engage you in an interactive discussion on the questions raised in the report, and to solicit your feedback for future discussions around issues specific to girls.

The full report and executive summary is available to download on our website www.sfgov.org/dosw. If you have any questions regarding the release of the report or the report itself, contact Ann Lehman at 415-252-2572 or annlehman@sfgov.org, or Carol Sacco at 415-252-2574 or carol.sacco@sfgov.org.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspaper for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE 0266048-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Law And Mediation Solutions. 831 Scotia Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joel K. Rubinstein. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/11/2003.

APR. 17, 24, MAY 1, 8, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265914-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Island Treasures. 555 John Muir Dr. #8412 San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rodolfo C. Soriano. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 8, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/08/2003.

APR. 17, 24, MAY 1, 8, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266130-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Exclusive Transportation Services. 1327 22nd Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Minh Nguyen H. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 15, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/2003.

APR. 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266149-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Unplugged Internet. Ca. 1375 De Haro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joey Kollar, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/2003.

APR. 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266144-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Metzler Brothers. 675 Haight Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph B. Metzler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 16, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/2003.

APR. 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 2003

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. C.N.C 03540683

In the Matter of the Application of Jerome Anthony Hardin. For change of Name. The application of Jerome Anthony Hardin for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jerome Anthony Hardin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jerome Anthony Cufsey. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why name should not be granted. APR. 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 2003



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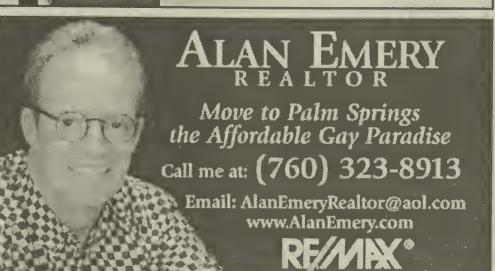
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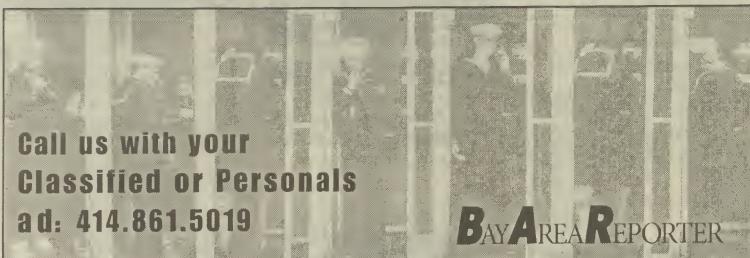
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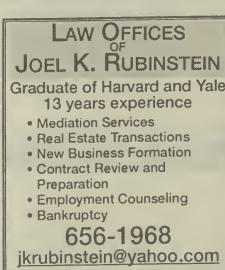
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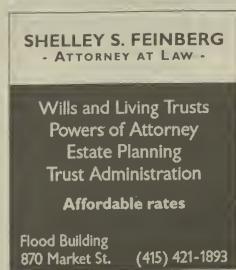
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E18

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E18

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0266437-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Two Sister's Restaurant. 308-5th
Avenue, San Francisco, CA. 94118. This business is
conducted by a husband and wife
signed Masard Mochida and Kaiti Huisin
Choe. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on N/A.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on
04/28/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266401-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
It's Market. 1561 Fillmore Street, San
Francisco, CA. 94115. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Alex
Kim. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on N/A.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on
04/25/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266365-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
B. B. Gear-SF. 3207 Fillmore Street, San
Francisco, CA. 94123. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Ghazwa
Danielle Mawlaoui. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on April 24, 2003. The statement
was filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266337-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Employment Law Paralegal. 855
Sacramento Street, Suite 318, San
Francisco, CA. 94108. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Don L.
Whitney. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on April
15, 2003. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266335-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
City In Bloom. 957 Hayes Street Suite
#1, San Francisco, CA. 94117. This
business is conducted by an individual
signed Richard Louis Fitch. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact
business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on April 24, 2003.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on
04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266473-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Def Wes Records. 735 Gough Street Apt.
#C, San Francisco, CA. 94102. This
business is conducted by an individual signed James Earl Metts III. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact
business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on April 29, 2003.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on
04/29/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266385-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
ATGMY CO. 810 Gonzalez Drive #3D,
San Francisco, CA. 94132. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Kyung
Keun Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on April
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MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

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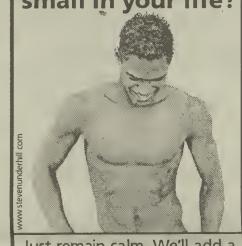
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Do you want your voice to be heard? Come share your thoughts and feelings about what personal responsibility means to you as an HIV+ gay/bi man.

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Come join us at the most talked about corner in San Francisco. Harvey's is the place to be. Pretzels and other munchies are on us, and Harvey's full kitchen is at your disposal.

THURSDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Harvey's | 500 Castro Street (at 18th Street)

positive space > friday social | May 9

For those Positive Force participants that are clean and sober, we will be meeting at the Castro office for snacks and beverages and going down to the Living Sober conference for the Friday meeting.

FRIDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Positive Force Offices | 539 Castro Street (18th/19th)

café positive | May 15

Ready for a new afternoon routine? Make a date with other HIV+ men at Café Positive, the daytime social support event that's open to everyone and hosted by the volunteers of the Castro Country Club. Gab with the guys about the latest treatment newsflash and what you think is around the corner. Beverages and light lunch are on us!

THURSDAY | 1 - 3pm | Castro Country Club | 4058 18th Street (Castro/Hartford)

plus additions | May 20

Have you recently been to a PLUS Seminar but missed some information? Do you want to re-connect with other former PLUS participants? Then plan on coming to PLUS Additions, where each month a topic from the PLUS weekend will be discussed in depth.

TUESDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Positive Force Offices | 539 Castro Street (18th/19th)

plus seminar | May 31 & June 1

Recently test HIV positive? Been positive and want more information? Plus is a free educational and experiential two-day weekend seminar for those of us affected by HIV. Registration is required. Contact PLUS @ 415-865-0790 x 307 for more info, times and exact location (San Francisco).

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page 31

Going home again
Gay in a small English
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Silent on gay stars
'Life' offers an abridged
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 33 • No. 18 • 1 May 2003

It's been a hard climb back up for novelist Scott Heim, who let the big success of *Mysterious Skin* go to his head, and then the double whammy of the failure of his follow-up novel and then cancellation of a third book to go deep into his soul.

"For the last few years I really tried to get back to the place where you're writing because you love to write," he said. "I was really disillusioned about the whole world. I went through a big depression."

Nor did it help that the screen version of *Mysterious Skin* that he had scripted came so close to fruition before the deal fell apart. So when his agent told him there was a theater in San Francisco hoping to create a play based on *Mysterious Skin*, his attitude was, "I'll believe it when I actually see it happening."

Heim can now believe it. The stage adaptation of *Mysterious Skin*, a story laced with gay pedophilia, opens this week at New Conservatory Theatre Center. Heim will be in the audience to see what playwright Prince Gomolvilas has done with his 1995 novel.

"I think if was a book that I had written six months ago, it would be hard for me to deal with," Heim said from his home in Boston. "I think I'm distanced enough from it now that, more than anything else, I'm excited to see how Prince has redone it."

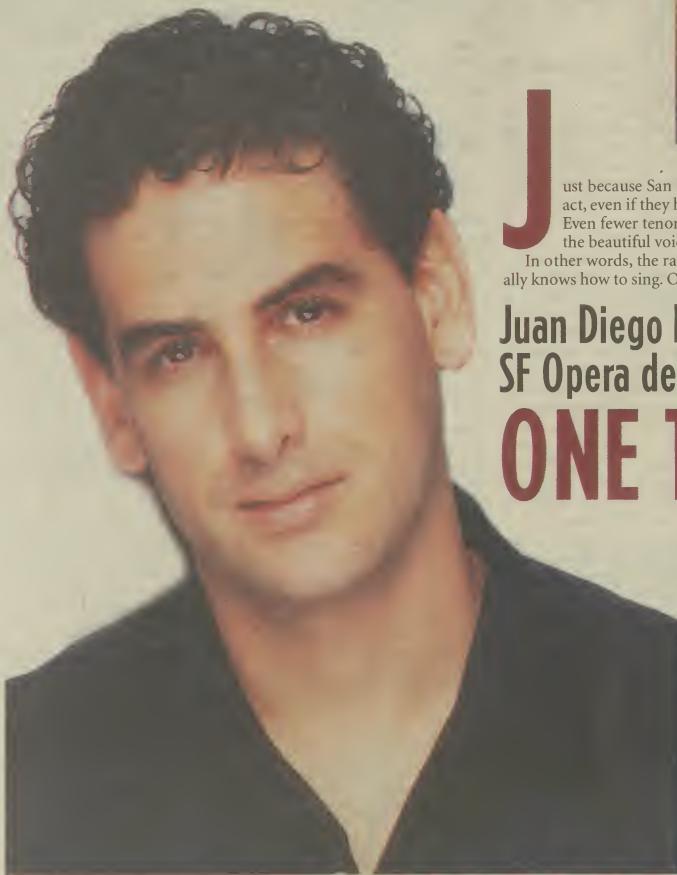
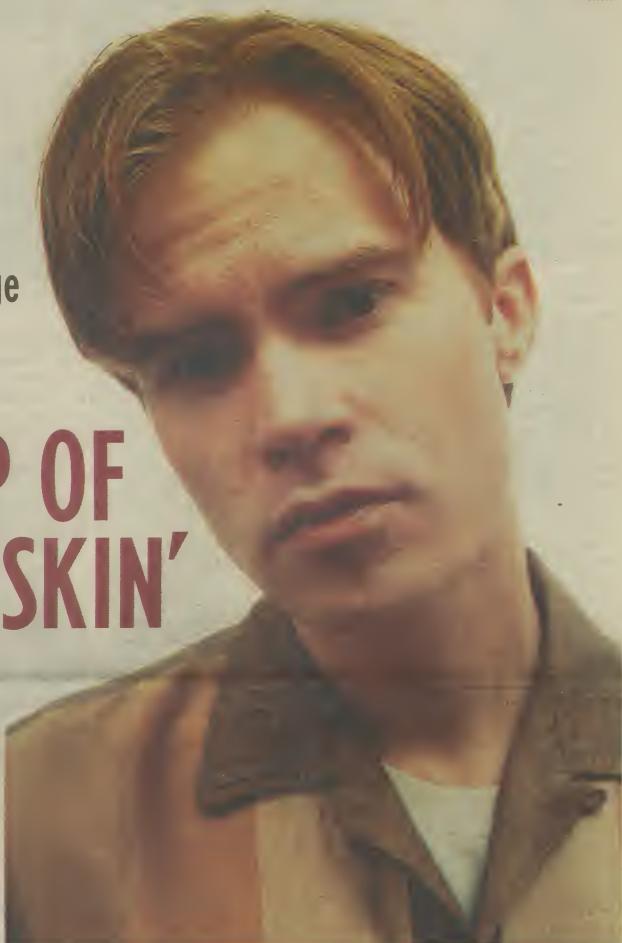
As for Gomolvilas, whose recent plays include *Debunking Love* and *Bee*, he said that having Heim in the audience is going to be "real weird." But, he added, "The people I fear most are Scott's fans. The play is very different from the book."

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**From novel to the screen (almost),
and now to the San Francisco stage**

THE LONG, STRANGE TRIP OF 'MYSTERIOUS SKIN'

by Richard Dodds



Just because San Francisco Opera has officially given us permission to like singers who look good and can act, even if they have only modest vocal endowment, doesn't mean we can exercise that privilege on tenors. Even fewer tenors look good and can act than those who know how to use a beautiful voice properly. And the beautiful voices can be counted on the fingers of one hand that has met with an industrial accident.

In other words, the rarest creature in the opera world is a good-looking tenor with a gorgeous voice, who actually knows how to sing. Obviously I wouldn't be making these depressing statements if I weren't going to pull a rabbit out of a hat. Fortunately for opera fans, Juan Diego Florez, the fast-rising, 30-year-old Peruvian tenor, is cute as a bug's ear, has a natural, charming stage presence, and a lovely *tenore di grazia*, steered by an excellent technique and bags of musical passion.

Even more important, he is scheduled to make his San Francisco Opera debut in June, as the Prince in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (*Cinderella*), partnering the delectable Italian mezzo Sonia Ganassi (remember her from SFO's sensational French *La Favorite* several years ago?) In addition, Florez will make his local recital debut at Cal Performances on June 11; they have had the foresight to engage him for next season as well.

(No such happy coincidence from SFO, alas, bel canto not being one of Pamela Rosenberg's favorite genres; Florez was hired by Lotfi Mansouri.)

To get our juices flowing before Florez's local debut, Decca has released a second recital album by the dashing tenor. The first, devoted to Rossini arias, was unbelievably exciting. *Una furtiva lagrima*, with the chorus and orchestra "Giuseppe Verdi" di Milano, conducted by Riccardo Frizza (Decca), offers arias by Donizetti and Bellini. They range from Donizetti's silly *Rita* and his classic "Com'e gentil" from *Don Pasquale*, to "A te, o cara," Bellini's fabulous wedding scene from *I Puritani*, with the nine high Cs of Donizetti's *Fille du Regiment* rounding out the album.

The latter is the least impressive item on the disc to me, probably because I heard the

page 36 ►

**Juan Diego Florez to make
SF Opera debut in June**

ONE TALL DRINK OF ELIXIR

by Stephanie von Buchau

(No such happy coincidence from SFO, alas, bel canto not being one of Pamela Rosenberg's favorite genres; Florez was hired by Lotfi Mansouri.)

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THEATRE

'Roberta's rules of order

42nd Street Moon returns to '30s musical

by Richard Dodds

Colloquial expressions rise and fall all the time. Yesterday's bees' knees is today's bomb. But what sends a simile into oblivion? In the 1933 musical *Roberta*, one character says of another that she is "as brilliant as mica and just as hard." Apparently, invoking transparent mineral silicates just isn't hip anymore.

One of the pleasures of 42nd Street Moon's visits to less-than-classic musicals is peering through their windows into linguistics, customs, and fantasies of another time. Unlike the occasional pre-*Okahoma!* classic, these middling musicals tapped into the everyday world of the era's theatergoers.

In *Roberta*, 42nd Street Moon's current staged-concert revival, it takes a few moments to realize how much a word like "swell" grates on the ears of those trying to hold the barbarians at the gate.

Those defending social propriety even in the midst of the Depression include not only the musical's characters but also its creators.

This is 42nd Street Moon's second visit to the Jerome Kern-Otto Harbach musical, and in a program note, director Greg MacKellar reports that *Roberta* is the troupe's most requested repeat. The reasons for this ardor are not always revealed in this new mounting, though pleasures do make consistent, though spaced, appearances in a production that works to keep spirits high.

While a commercial hit, *Roberta* was hardly a critical success. Labeled a "dull fashion show," it found an audience thanks to a high-personality cast, a sumptuous production, discounted tickets, and the hit-parade success of "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes."

The plot is foolish, but no more so than many of the musical's contemporaries, yet it is structured with odd series of ebbs and flows. It is the story of a

bumpkin college-football hero (Jason Winfield) who inherits a high-end Parisian fashion salon run by his once-scandalous aunt (Kathryn Crosby) and staffed with Russian royalty deposed by the revolution. Our hero is variously in the arms of his shallow American sweetheart (Lane McKenna), a big-hearted Russian princess (Stephanie Rhoads), and a hot-to-trot countess (Lesley Hamilton). A collegiate band with a wisecracking leader (Steve Rhyne) is also along from the ride.

In addition to "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," the score produced several other standards, though, curiously, many of the songs were offered as snippets that don't get much chance to register. No matter how you slice it, *Roberta* just isn't as brilliant as, say, mica. ▼

Roberta will run at the Eureka Theatre through May 18. Tickets are \$27 & \$29. Call 978-2787.



Countess Scharwenka (Lesley Hamilton) wants John Kent (Jason Winfield).

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Mysterious Skin

Arts cover

Mysterious Skin would appear to be an unlikely candidate for a stage adaptation. Among the difficulties: The principal characters age from children to young adults, the story is told from multiple points of view, the action takes place in numerous locales, and most challengingly, the book contains scenes of consensual sex between a baseball coach in rural Kansas and one of his young players.

"If someone had come to me and said, 'We want you to write a play based on your novel,' I would have laughed," said Heim. "So much of the book is internal. It's very much about the progress of someone's memory. But I think Prince has done a great job, because he's taken the areas of the book where a character is struggling explicitly with memory, and translated them to the stage with a limited number of resources and a limited number of characters."

Heim maintained a hands-off attitude during the adaptation process. "He didn't touch anything or have suggestions about how I adapted it," Gomolvlas said.

"Part of my own fear in adapting it was that I knew I would have to lose a lot of great scenes he had written."

Alien nation

Gomolvlas read *Mysterious Skin* not long after its original publication, and found himself "wrought with many different emotions." Partly it was his fascination with the notions of UFOs and alien abduction, which may or may not have happened to one of the young characters. "And there were issues of sexual abuse in my own life," he continued, "and that is part of why the book appealed to me."

Of the two main characters, who are 8 years old when the book begins, Gomolvlas most identified with the sensitive Brian. "Like Brian," the playwright said, "I was very sexually repressed for most of my life, until I came out at the age



Novelist Scott Heim in San Francisco in 1997: 'Take it as far as you can.'

of 24."

On the other hand, there is nothing sexually repressed about Neil. This scrappy kid understands that Coach's interest in him is more than avuncular, and he enjoys the physical encounters as they occur. In this case, the issue of "abuse" is a murky one. The notion of a minor in a consensual sex act with an adult generated controversy even before the book was published.

"At the beginning of writing the book, I was still getting my MFA," Heim said, "and my professor knew I was apprehensive because some of the people in the class were like, 'Do we really want to read about this?' It's really taboo." Are you sure you want to write about this? My professor was more like, this is the thing that's going to piss people off and get them thinking, so you should take it as far as you can."

Heim was delving into his own childhood fantasizing about growing up he coveted while growing up in rural Kansas. "I think people underestimate kids so much, that a 12-year-old doesn't think that way," Heim said. "But there were so many instances where I wished that sort of thing happened to me. People will compliment me on the book and say, 'You should be congratulated for showing how terrible children

molestation is.' I say, 'I'm glad you liked the book,' but in the back of my mind I'm thinking, 'You kind of missed the point.'

Gomolvlas, on the other hand, doesn't embrace the sexual abuse in his childhood, but he still wanted to honor the tone of Heim's novel. "Adapting Scott's book has really allowed me to go in dangerous directions in my work," he said. "I do anticipate people talking about it, and not all of it good, but I'm used to that."

In Gomolvlas' adaptation, the story starts when the boys are already 18, with the first part of the book summarized in several short flashbacks. But the most radical change from the novel is the elimination of Coach as an onstage character.

"There's a monologue by Neil in the second act where he describes his relationship with the coach, and about halfway through it, he sort of takes on the identity of the coach and starts speaking in the coach's voice. I find that far more compelling than actually having the character of the coach onstage performing lewd acts."

But even these kinds of fundamental changes didn't faze Heim when he read Gomolvlas' play. "Even with the first draft, he absolutely loved it," Gomolvlas said. "I've saved the e-mail just to prove to everybody that he's really okay with it."

For more information on *Mysterious Skin*, call the NCTC box office at 861-8972. ▼



Inevitable destiny

'Le Cercle Rouge,' film noir at the Castro

by Tavo Amador

The French appreciated Hollywood's thrillers before Americans did, and coined the phrase *film noir* to describe their dark, fatalistic view of life. Director Jean-Pierre Melville's *Le Cercle Rouge* (*The Red Circle*) (1970) is a superb example of the pupil surpassing his teachers. It plays the Castro Theatre May 2-15.

Inspector Mattei (Andre Bourvil) is taking captured criminal Vogel (Gian Maria Volonte) from Marseilles to Paris by train. Vogel escapes and becomes the object of a police manhunt. At the same time, Corey (Alain Delon) is being let out of jail early—he has served five years for an unspecified offense. A prison guard proposes a scheme. Corey is wary; he doesn't want to return to jail. But with limited employment prospects, he listens.

Corey visits his old partner, Rico (Andre Ekyan), taking a gun and a pile of cash from his apartment safe, replacing both with a photograph of his former girlfriend, now Rico's mistress. He buys a car and heads for Paris, stopping *en route* for a meal.

Corey meets Vogel in a superbly filmed, suspenseful sequence. The two men are strangers, but Corey needs an accomplice to pull off the jewelry heist the prison guard described. Vogel agrees. Their bond is sealed when two of Rico's goons come after them and get killed for their trouble. Vogel suggests they get in touch with a crack shot, Jansen (Yves Montand), to help with the robbery. Jansen, an alcoholic ex-cop suffering terrifying withdrawals, agrees. They plan to steal a fortune in jewels from a posh shop overlooking Paris' *chic* Place Vendome. Jansen suggests a fence, who agrees, offering the thieves 25% of the jewelry's retail value.

Meanwhile, Mattei, under pressure to find Vogel, has been talking to his usual informers, hoping for a lead. He urges nightclub owner Santi (Francois Perier) to help. Santi refuses, and is taken to police headquarters on trumped-up charges.

The heist goes off brilliantly, and the three men make a clean escape. Complications set in when the fence says the merchandise is too hot for him to handle. This forces Corey to find another person to dispose of the jewels. He does. The drop-off point is a mansion in Louveciennes, outside Paris. It is here that all the pieces of the complex but flawlessly devised plot come together.

Crisp pace

The movie has comparatively little dialogue or background music. The action is swift but not rushed, and the 140-minutes running time seems only half that length. Melville was inspired by John Huston's *The Asphalt Jungle* (1950) and had hoped to direct *Rififi* (1956), only to see that project go to Jules Dassin. The heist scene in *Le Cercle Rouge* is as crisp, tense, and silent as the classic one in *Rififi*.

Shot in muted, gray-tinged color, the movie captures Paris' bleak winter, with its watery light and bone-chilling temperatures. Melville also captures the unspoken, often unrealized homoeroticism of *film noir*. The men meet clandestinely, recognize each other immediately, communicate more with a look or a gesture than with words, and bond quickly. Corey hardly seems to notice the chorus girls in Santi's club, and seems indifferent to his girlfriend's betrayal.

At 35, Delon was 10 years older than the breathtakingly gorgeous and talented Mr. Ripley he played in his star-making performance in *Rene Clement's Purple Noon* (1960) or the saintly beauty of *Luchino Visconti's Rocco and His Brothers* (1960), but that doesn't diminish his appeal. Melville had him grow a mustache, naively thinking it would make him less handsome. Neither it nor the slight shadows under his sapphire-like eyes make any difference. Delon's beauty is matched by his coldness, which makes him a fascinating actor. This is someone you would want to bed, but not love.

Montand's warmth superbly complements Delon's iciness. Jansen and Mattei are the only likable characters in the movie, and Montand simultaneously evokes pity and admiration. Volonte, a



Alain Delon is in the driver's seat for a jewelry heist in *Le Cercle Rouge*.

celebrated Italian stage star, is equally compelling; and Bourvil, best known for his comedic skills, is riveting as Mattei, who comes home each night to his three long-haired cats.

The movie's title comes from a Buddhist saying relating to where one meets his destiny. In a bit of irony, Melville set the finale in Louveciennes, where the *ancien regime's* last royal mistress,

Madame du Barry, had her fabled chateau, and from where her famous jewelry collection was stolen in 1791. Her determination to recover her property prevented her from seeking permanent exile in London, and made her a prime target for the French Revolutionaries, who guillotined her in 1793. Like Madame du Barry, the men in *Le Cercle Rouge* cannot escape their fate. ▼

X-cellent x-capades

Loving 'X-2: X-Men Unite' this weekend

by Brandon Judell

Racists have *Birth of the Nation*, romantic belles *Gone with the Wind*, and beer-drinking masturbators the *American Pie* series. Now we homosexual, lesbian, and transgendered folk can rejoice, too. The *X-Men* saga is ours. And with its latest episode, the enterprise is better than ever.

If you missed out on the invigorating first episode, by all means do rent it, otherwise you'll miss out on some important subtext. But the basic premise in both films is the same: the human race's gene pool is evolving (or mutat-

ing), and the result is that hundreds of thousands of people scattered around the world have been born "different." Most of these differences aren't recognizable at first, but a few might have blue skin, a lizard's tongue, or a demon's tail.

As for the powers, some can suck the life force from whomever they touch. Others can control fire, the weather, or metal, and a few can transform themselves into whatever shape or being they want to. You'd think America, the land of accepted differences, would be joyful about this. You'd expect families to love their children no matter what. Sadly, this isn't the case. In fact, one mother asks her son Bobby (Shawn Ashmore), the Iceman, "Have you tried not being a mutant?"

"Yes, Mom, but have you ever tried sleeping with your Mah Jong gal-pals, or not watching *Oprah* for a day?" I'm sorry, I digressed. That last response is not in the film, but you get the point.

In the original *X-Men*, the plot hinged on the antics of two groups of mutants. The peace-loving ones, who wanted to live in bliss with their "normal" brethren, were headed by Professor Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart). He runs the School for Gifted Children, a haven for mutant kids. On his staff and on his side are Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), Storm (Halle Berry), Jean Grey (Famke Janssen) and Cyclops (James Marsden).

The militant side, comprised of the mutants who have had enough of Homo Sapien bigotry and want to kill them all, is headed by Magneto (Sir Ian McKellen). His sidekick is the luscious shape-changer Mystique (Rebecca Romijn-Stamos).

Come together

Well, the two cliques wound up fighting each other, and "good" prevailed. Now the times have changed, and after the President of these United States is nearly assassinated by a mutant, an all-out war has begun against those who are different. Consequently, all the mutants have to unite.

The main villain now is William Stryker (Brian Cox), a wealthy former Army commander



Mystique (Rebecca Romijn-Stamos)

and scientist who is said to have experimented on mutants, and whose son might have been one.

To go into more specifics wouldn't be fair. Let's just say the screenplay by Michael Dougherty and Dan Harris is deliciously deft, brainy and entertaining. The acting, too, is top-notch, Bryan Singer's superb direction is again fresh and resourceful, the special effects sublime, and all the techniques from Gordon Smith's makeup design to Newton Thomas Sigel's cinematography are Oscar-caliber.

X-Men, in the end, is far better than *Star Wars* in every possible way, and even preferable to *The Matrix*, with its shallow underpinnings and Keanu Reeves' thespian inabilities.

But even if *X-2* weren't such a visual and mental treat, you'd have to appreciate it for its political/social stances and its constantly subtle gay shenanigans. Just watch Nightcrawler (Alan Cumming) on top of the President as he's about to... oh, don't let me spoil it.

And don't let me tell you about the nude shot of Wolverine.

There is, sadly, one negative aspect that runs throughout *X-2*, and it's hard to overlook. Who the hell did Famke Janssen's hair? The gal looks horrible. Give her some gel or something. But then, what in life is perfect? ▼

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FILM

Speaking the Queen's English

British antics of Hunter/Hunsinger's 'The Lawless Heart'

by David Lamble

In the opening moments of *The Lawless Heart*, a gentle comedy that pokes around long-held secrets in a small English seacoast village, a married man is spied by his wife holding another woman's purse, at a memorial service for her dead gay brother. The British filmmaking duo of Neil Hunter and Tom Hunsinger have taken a big step up in this, their second feature (their first, *Boyfriends*, was an audience favorite at the 1996 Frameline festival). The drowning of Nick's lover Stuart not only leaves Nick lonely and broke, but for a time questioning his sexual identity, if not his sanity. A prodigal son, Tim, returns home after eight years to discover that Stuart was, in the words of a mutual friend, "half the fun in this bloody little town," and that he, alas, was the other half. Dan, once a loving father and husband, finds himself startled at his answer to the question, "Are you a member of the

family?"

Part of the fun of *The Lawless Heart* is discovering what might happen if you cruise somebody at a wake. When Corinne (Clementine Celarie), who is sophisticated, glamorous and French, uses her occupation as the local florist to chat up Dan, hoping for a harmless fling, Dan discovers the stirring of long dormant passions that are anything but harmless in a tiny town where nobody's business is safe from prying eyes.

Before Stuart died, Nick found himself begging off from his lover's goofier ideas for fun by claiming that he was too tired and had to go to bed. Now, after a rowdy party thrown by Tim, Nick discovers that there's a strange woman in his bed. Charlie (Sukie Smith) doesn't want to go home in the morning until she's had her tea, and possibly Nick.

Tim, who took Stuart's advice to "go for it" as seriously as a life of bartending and pub-crawling can be said to be serious, discovers that people who say you can never go home again are wrong,

you just may not like what you find when you get there — namely, yourself.

Hunter and Hunsinger use the trick of covering the same period of time from Dan, Tim and Nick's perspectives to disguise the fact that it's really Nick's story, of his passive struggle to get his fair share of Stuart's estate from Stuart's guilt-plagued sister Judy (Ellie Haddington) and her self-absorbed, homophobe husband Dan. The trick works because the stories are different enough, and yet each contains some common linkages, incidents repeated that each time provide different clues to the souls and fates of these characters: the theft of a corkscrew, the breaking of a sugar bowl, and a well-deserved punch in the nose, delivered to a believably bad gay waiter.

It helps that our three heroes are recognizable British types rendered by a talented cast. Tom Hollander (Saffie's boyfriend in *Absolutely Fabulous*) plays Nick as a younger and more earnest Tony Blair, his fuddy-duddy exterior

making the revelation of his passions all the more delicious.

Douglas Henshall, with his Marty Feldman-like bulging eyeballs, is both sad and funny as Tim's aging life-of-the-party guy, who still demonstrates why the words sexy and British can be used in the same sentence.

Bill Nighy's Dan is a subtle replay of the petty traits of character that made John Cleese's Basil Fawlty (in turn obsequious to his betters and bullying to those he thinks beneath him) such a guilty pleasure. Dan's odd tryst of a conversation with Corinne in the film's opening breath gives a sur-



Proving you can go home again.

real take on the current state of British/French relations. ▼

Opens Friday.

Macho follies

'Raising Victor Vargas'

by David Lamble

ust think of him as bug spray." Judy (Judy Marte) is talking to her girlfriend Melonie (Melonie Diaz) about pretending to date a homeboy in order to keep the rest of the neighborhood studs in line for the summer. "Guys are dogs. We don't need them, right?"

Harold (Kevin Rivera) reminds his best bro' of his favorite mantra. "I'm Victor, I'm Victor, I get all the hottest bitches out there."

In an auspicious writing/directing debut, NYU film grad Peter Sollett (with a story assist from Eva Vives) takes off from an earlier short to reinvent the horny

teen coming-of-age flick. If there were any justice in the movie world, this summer, kids would be shunning *American Pie 3* in favor of Sollett's *Raising Victor Vargas*. This film uses the specificity of growing up in a Grandma-headed Dominican family on the East Side of Manhattan to stand in for any American kid's need to rein in raging hormones and become a person that others can lean on, learn from, respect and love.

As Victor Vargas, Victor Rasuk gives a beautifully modulated performance that gives off real heat, as well as trace elements of early De Niro and a host of other bad boy/good boy protagonists who knew that the best way to our hearts is the rough way. When we first lay eyes on Victor, he's show-



Victor Rasuk, hot as Victor Vargas

ing off for "Fat Donna," his upstairs neighbor and easy lay of the moment. Victor's plans are foiled by Harold and his sister Vicky (a nice, cranky turn by newcomer Krystal Rodriguez), and Victor suddenly finds himself the joke of the 'hood.

next page ▶

Three's company, too

Chromosome-pickin' in 'XX/XY'

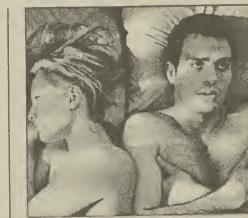
by Brandon Judell

I'm just chillin' like Bob Dylan" is just a mere sampling of the witty banter in this threesome-gone-awry pic.

It's 1993 and party time at Sarah Lawrence. At one such gathering, hunky Coles (Mark Ruffalo), a cartoonist, bumps into Sam (Maya Stange) and Thea (Kathleen Robertson) in the kitchen. Thea, within seconds, dares Coles to copulate with some packaged chicken. He responds by daring the gals to make it over a popsicle.

Needless to say, all three wind up in bed: gal on gal, guy on gal, and so forth.

The next day, guilt arises over the phone: "So we're all sorry, but we all had fun." Consequently, the trio becomes friends, but a little lopsidedly, because Coles and Sam



The camera adores Mark Ruffalo.

wind up full-time lovers. You can feel Thea bristling, but not for long. After all, how long can young love last before getting screwed up?

Jump ahead 10 years. Thea is married to a restaurateur. Coles has sold out and is making ads for a fast-food chain. As for Sam, she's just moved back to town from England to avoid marriage. What will

happen when the three reunite?

Fine performances from the highly attractive cast make this sporadically "hot" film enjoyable. Ruffalo, who runs around nude, showing ass, has already been compared to a young Marlon Brando and Montgomery Clift. The camera adores him, and he can act. Really act.

As for Robertson, she could definitely become a lesbian fixation no matter what hair color she does. She goes through all three major ones here. Sultry, vicious and vulnerable, she's plain gorgeous.

Stange is also fine if your heart flips for the more passive type.

As a bonus, there is a very long flossing scene. Every tooth is gotten at, and no gums bleed. Now that's really impressive. ▶

Opens Friday.

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No language barrier

Author Philip Gambone's gay 'Beijing'

by Gregg Shapiro

More than 10 years after the publication of his acclaimed short-story collection *The Language We Use Up Here*, openly gay writer Philip Gambone has returned with his compelling debut novel *Beijing* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2003). Gambone tells the story of David Masiello, a gay man in his late 40s who, feeling frustrated with his life in Boston shortly after the death of his lover Johnny, decides to take a job working as an office manager in a clinic in Beijing for one year. With care and skill, Gambone gives the reader a passport into exciting territory, by making us care about both the characters and the place. Exotic and erotic, *Beijing* is a sensual reading experience that crosses the boundaries of culture and sexuality.

Gregg Shapiro: More than 10 years went by between the publication of your short story collection and your new novel.

Philip Gambone: Yes, I worked for 4-5 years on another novel that never got published; and I wrote a lot of essays, book reviews and travel pieces.

Are you still trying to get the other novel published?

No. It was apprentice work. I'm glad I wrote it, because I learned a lot about writing novels, which are very different beasts than short stories.

Do you enjoy teaching?

Yes, I've been at it about 25 years. I teach English and Social Studies to 8th- and 9th-graders here in Boston; and I teach creative and expository writing at Harvard Extension School to adults. But it does sap a lot of energy. Energy that could go into writing!

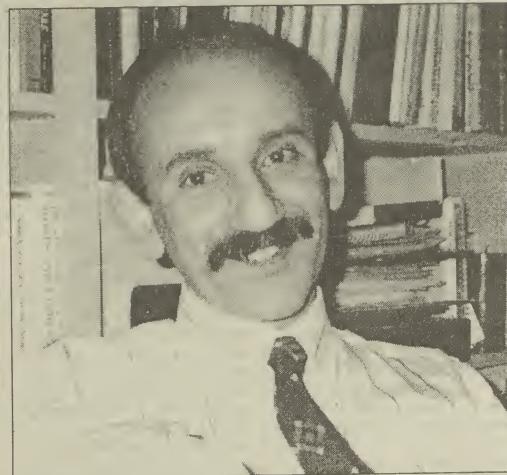
What was the genesis of the novel *Beijing*?

I met many gay men in China, who had told me stories, and of course I'd had my own experiences and impressions. I think the first story I wrote became the seed of the chapter in *Beijing* where David meets the worker in the park and they have a totally platonic, very nonverbal little romance up in that pavilion overlooking the pond. That story ended up in an anthology, as did a few other stories that were early versions of some of the chapters

Victor Vargas

◀ previous page

Victor's plan to get back in the saddle involves making a major move on Judy, the hottest girl at the swimming pool. Judy at first finds Victor pathetic, but useful to keep the other dogs at bay. Rasuk and Marte use a nuanced mix of surface emotions and body language to remind us that this isn't necessarily your usual summer movie cute-meet. Sollet's real ace-in-the-hole is to make the complex family-politics in the Vargas household his film's centerpiece, capped off by a blunt but affecting performance by Altgracia Guzman as Victor's grandma, a 72-year-old Dominican native with fond memories of



Bruce Wile

Gambone: finding gay China was his entrée into understanding the culture.

of the novel.

One of the subjects of *Beijing* is the existence of a gay subculture in such a repressive society.

Yes, I encountered gay life in China, full of grace, wit and emotion. I went thinking that I would (1) never meet any gay people; (2) never be able to have a relationship with any gay people; (3) that gay life would be totally repressed. None of that proved to be true. The gay men I met were as varied in their tastes, styles, manner, and feelings about being gay as any similar sampling of gay men here.

The book is also full of heart-pounding moments of tension, most of which revolve around David's encounters with gay culture in Beijing: the park, the Ta Ta Club, the bathhouse. It's like bringing the reader to the brink, and then rewarding them with the payoff.

Yes. I don't want to give the reader the impression that gay life in China is easy. It's not. Any gay man planning a trip to China — at least to Beijing, which is not the center of Westernized culture — should be careful about assuming that he can find lots of gay life. The city still, as far as I know, has only one (small!) gay bar.

How do you think a gay man living in China might respond to reading *Beijing*?

I don't know. I hope that readers in China, or anywhere for that matter, would find the humanity that I was trying to ring out in

David's attempts to penetrate another culture. At one point in the novel, he tells his friend Stewart that finding gay China is his entrée into understanding China at all. That was definitely my experience.

University of Wisconsin Press published both your nonfiction *Something Inside* (1999) and *Beijing*. As someone who has also published with a mainstream publishing house, what can you say about the way that university presses are picking up where many mainstream houses have left off?

For about 10 years, 1985-95, gay writers enjoyed a wonderful ride with the mainstream houses. Every house wanted to pick up gay authors. That's all changed now. The publishing houses are hyper-fixated on the bottom line, which means that "midrange authors," like me, have been left out. That's where the independent publishers and university presses have stepped in and filled a necessary role. I feel very fortunate to have a wonderful relationship with Wisconsin.

Are you planning a return trip to China?

Yes, I'm going for the two weeks of my spring vacation back to Asia. I'll be about five days in Japan, where I've never been before, visiting a friend from college, then going back to China. I'm passionate about Chinese history and culture, and plan on doing a lot of touring. ▼

but role-plays a seduction scene in which he demonstrates how girls are turned on by guys with juicy lips.

Years ago, a close friend surprised me by the vehemence of his rejection of the Mission District, with its macho men aggressively pursuing women and taunting queers. *Raising Victor Vargas* is a film I think my friend would appreciate: the journey of one very Latino family coping with being a very American family by carefully shopping at the delicatessen of the best and worst values from both cultures. The film is also an oasis for film fans sick of wall-to-wall sonic-boom soundtracks. ▼

Now playing.

Edith Head, designing woman

How famed costume designer rose to the top of the field

by Tavo Amador

Because Oscars weren't given for Costume Design until 1948, legendary gay men like MGM's Adrian and Paramount's Travis Banton, who were no longer working in films by then, never won the award. Banton's successor Edith Head collected many statuettes, however, sometimes for work done by others. In *The Life and Times of Hollywood's Celebrated Costume Designer Edith Head* (Harper Collins, \$29.95), David Chierichetti tells the story of Head's rise to the top, and her determination to stay there.

Born Edith Claire Posener in San Bernardino, California in 1897, she spent much of her girlhood in Mexico, then earned a BA in French from UC Berkeley and an MA in Romance Languages

from Stanford. After a brief stint teaching, she was hired in 1924 by Howard Greer as a sketch artist at Paramount, although the drawings she showed him during her interview were done by others. Head (the name of her first husband, Charles, whom she divorced after a few years) was an adequate sketcher and competent designer, but expert at using others to further her career.

Paramount's leading ladies in the '30s were Marlene Dietrich, Mae West, Claudette Colbert, and Carole Lombard, all of whom Banton dressed superbly. His alcoholism and unreliability, however, eventually paved the way for Head. Her first important design was a sari for Dorothy Lamour's *The Jungle Princess* (1936). Keeping the censors quiet and hiding Lamour's wide hips and heavy thighs presented major challenges. She worked with the



Head was expert at using others.

cameraman to learn how Lamour would be photographed, and succeeded in creating the desired illusion. By the end of the decade, Head had replaced Banton.

She placated and pleased most of the stars, but Colbert, now the most popular actress on the lot, blamed her for Banton's departure, and disliked her costumes for *Zaza* (1939). Years later, in one of the few openly hostile remarks Head made about anyone, she called Colbert "a bitch, and a dyke to boot." Socially charming and elegant, Colbert was controlling on the set and adamant about how she should be photographed. Banton created wonderful clothes for her, always adjusting the collars of her dresses to make her short neck look longer, and hiding her thick waist, while accentuating her beautiful legs and slim hips.

Head was a workaholic, part because she feared competition. She was also a supreme studio politician, self-effacing around executives, successfully bridging conflicts between directors and stars. Her clothes are subordinate to the story, tasteful, sometimes elegant, but not as original as Banton's.

Off the shoulder

The early '50s were Head's greatest period. Her most famous dress was worn by Bette Davis in 20th Century Fox's *All About Eve* (1950). Davis asked for Head, and studio designer Charles LeMaire agreed; he designed all the other clothes in the film. The demanding Davis needed considerable help to look attractive. She had a thick neck, round shoulders, pendulous breasts, and bowed legs. Head camouflaged her very well, although when Davis first modeled the dress, it was too big and slipped off her shoulder. In an inspired moment, she decided to wear it that way. When *Eve* won the Best Costume Oscar, Head shared the award with LeMaire, who had done far more work on the picture.

Her most popular dresses were worn by Elizabeth Taylor in 1951's *A Place in the Sun*. These gowns accentuated her beautiful neck, shoulders, bust, and tiny waist, and were much copied by prominent teenage girls throughout the read. ▼



Carroll Baker in transparent gown.

decade. Head's lack of imagination may explain why she failed to see Audrey Hepburn's appeal. She designed the clothes for her Oscar-winning role in *Roman Holiday* (1953), and although Givenchy created Hepburn's wardrobe for 1954's *Sabrina*, Head took sole credit and picked up another Academy Award. Head's own favorite work was for Grace Kelly in Hitchcock's *To Catch a Thief* (1956). Carroll Baker wore one of her more flamboyant gowns in *The Carpetbaggers* (1964), which looks like a cheap version of the sensational dresses Jean Louis designed for Dietrich in the '50s.

Head's last Oscar came for 1973's *The Sting*, although much of the work was done by The Western Costume Company. In all, Head received over 30 nominations, winning the little man eight times.

Chierichetti knew Head and liked her. He shows how happy her second marriage, to set designer Bill Ihnen, was. She was a loyal friend, he says, but an extremely competitive professional who did anything to stay on top, even letting people believe she was a lesbian because that perception proved useful in working with the large number of gays in the business. She remained secretive about her origins, ashamed that she may have been illegitimate and of being Jewish. In essence, she lived in a clothes closet, and was difficult to know. She died in 1981 from cancer. ▼

Lost and found

by Jim Nawrocki

Lost Gay Novels by Anthony Slide; Harrington Park Press, \$24.95

In the world of literature, there's a particular poignancy associated with "lost novels." These are the books that, for one reason or another, have fallen into obscurity. This process is not always a result of quality. Certain books simply appear at the wrong time, never quite find their audience, or fall victim to poor marketing and a variety of other literary-marketplace hazards. For many forgotten novels, it seems, there's an equally neglected author and, perhaps, a story worthy of its own novel. *Lost Gay Novels*, a new reference book by Anthony Slide, attempts to shine a flashlight onto the cobwebbed shelf of little-known gay-themed novels from the first half of the 20th century.

Lost Gay Novels is one of those rare reference books that actually proves to be very entertaining. Slide selects 50 novels that contain gay characters, present gay themes, or both. Most were written by straight authors. For each book, he presents a detailed description of the plot and characters, a summary of the book's critical reception (with quotations from contemporary reviews), and a brief biography of the author. The entries are arranged alphabetically by the author's last name, rather than chronologically. Unfortunately, there are no illustrations, and Slide's descriptions of the cover art for some of the titles makes one wish there were.

Not surprisingly, as Slide notes in his introduction, most of the novels from this period present homosexuality in a less-than-flattering light. In fact, this book is potentially as useful a tool for sociologists and psychologists as it is for literary scholars. "These novels, the majority of which qualify as second-rate literature, are fascinating examples of contemporary prejudices and both their authors' and society's inhibitions," notes Slide. He also points out that most of the gay characters in these stories meet an untimely death. "It is very much as if an early death is

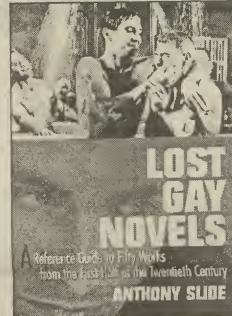
the only justification for the inclusion of a gay protagonist," he says.

Slide is true to his project, and assures his readers that there were many well-known novels from the period that do not qualify as "lost." These books include Djuna Barnes' *Nightwood*, Truman Capote's *Other Voices, Other Rooms*, Carson McCullers' *Reflections in a Golden Eye*, and Gore Vidal's *The City and the Pillar*. Slide also excludes a number of strictly erotic novels, as well as some that were not published in the US. These restrictions aside, *Lost Gay Novels* presents a remarkably rich selection of books, and a fair mix of both male and female authors.

The book manages to make a case for paying attention to some of the "lost" authors of the first half of the 20th-century. One of these is Kay Boyle, whose 1933 novel *Gentlemen, I Address You Privately* makes Slide's list.

Boyle was an American writer who left her native country to live and work in Paris in the 1920s with the likes of James Joyce, Ernest Hemingway and other famous "expatriates." Though she and her husband were blacklisted as the result of Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-Communist crusade in the '50s, Boyle continued to be a prolific novelist, poet, short-story writer and essayist. She eventually settled in San Francisco, and was a longtime advocate of not only gay and lesbian rights, but of human rights in general. Though Slide seems to share the opinion of critics who found *Gentlemen* a weak novel, he nevertheless gives it a fair, detailed reading, and makes due note of Boyle's place in American literature.

Slide also takes aim at more well-known novelists who present, by today's standards, shamelessly homophobic characters and storylines. One of these is James M. Cain, author of *The Postman Always Rings Twice* and *Mildred Pierce*. Slide discusses Cain's 1937 novel *Serenade*, which has as its basis the bizarre theory that homosexual contact can thwart artistic ability. The story concerns an opera singer whose voice is ruined when he becomes the love object of a homosexual stalker.



While Slide acknowledges Cain's gifts as a novelist and screenwriter (and notes the critics' positive response to *Serenade*), he makes a solid case for Cain's homophobia, quoting from personal letters and other sources. He also offers a concise but comprehensive review of homosexual characters in other prominent mystery novels of the period. *Lost Gay Novels* is not only a well-researched reference book, it's also a fascinating read. ▼

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Fear and self-loathing on the Beltway

by Robert Julian

Man About Town by Mark Merlis; Fourth Estate/Harper Collins, \$24.95

Man About Town, the third novel from Mark Merlis, is a curious and unsettling work that unfolds against the backdrop of Washington, DC politics. Joel Lingeman is a GS-15 legislative analyst, who reaches the top of the civil-service pecking

order but loses his soul. Joel's monogamous 15-year relationship ends when his male lover leaves him for a twentysomething college student. At the age of 45, Joel is once again single and working the Dupont Circle gay scene. It isn't a pretty picture.

The primary problem is Joel's seemingly bottomless well of doubt, regret, and insecurity. He is a dinosaur: an overweight smoker who eats and drinks too much, hates his work, and can only relate to younger men as sex objects.

Unfortunately, there is also no one Joel can respect or admire among his gay peers. These problems are all compounded by Joel's heightened level of self-awareness and vague sense of desperation.

Author Merlis focuses most of his prose efforts on outlining, in the third person, Joel's inner thoughts and feelings. He invests his main character with a keen sense of observation, jaded humor, and an abundance of self-loathing. But this personality makes Joel Lingeman a pitiable and occasionally despicable protagonist. The thin plot of *Man About Town* revolves around Joel's socio-sexual dilemma and his determination to track down the male model who was the subject of his adolescent sexual fantasies. There is also a subplot involving a homophobic senator who enlists Joel's assistance in drafting a bill to deny Medicare coverage to people with AIDS.



There is a slight problem with the chronology of *Man About Town*. The story is told as if it takes place now, but Joel's age and year of birth indicate the action is

occurring in 1995. In truth, Joel's personality and point of view are more consistent with that of a 53-year-old Washington bureaucrat than one who is 45. Joel understands the venal hypocrisy of Capitol Hill politics, but is ultimately unwilling to bite the hand that has fed him for a quarter of a century. In many respects, he is the quintessential middle-aged, Midwestern queer.

At the end of the novel, Joel Lingeman is no wiser or happier than he was at the beginning. Despite the solid prose, Mark Merlis delivers a story that has no dramatic arc. As a result, the novel ultimately falls a bit flat. But it nicely outlines the personal cost a gay man must pay for carving out a career within a system that despises him as much as he despises it. *Man About Town* is not only a cautionary tale, but a cry in the darkness. ▼

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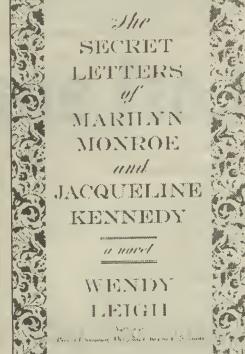
by Robert Julian

The Secret Letters of Marilyn Monroe and Jacqueline Kennedy, by Wendy Leigh; Thomas Dunne Books, \$24.95

Well, I suppose it could have worked, but it doesn't. Author Wendy Leigh's novel, *The Secret Letters of Marilyn Monroe and Jacqueline Kennedy*, invents a written correspondence between the most famous First Lady of the 20th century and the world's most famous movie star. This literary conceit appears in the form of fictitious letters unearthed by one Patty Renoir, a "beauty therapist" and pal of Monroe's who developed a close friendship with the actress while providing the personal service of waxing Monroe's crotch. Renoir takes the letters in her possession to a publisher, who compiles them in chronological order and publishes them, complete with footnotes.

As an appendix to the novel, author Leigh provides a bibliography of dozens of books on Monroe and Kennedy. Unfortunately, there is little evidence in the text that she actually read any of them. In order to accept the premise of this novel, you have to swallow the idea that two of the most influential women of their times were complete dolt, willing to commit intimate details of their marriages and sex lives to paper for their mutual edification. And all of this would take place over a decade in which one of the women (Monroe) was carrying on an affair with the husband of the other (Kennedy). Yeah, right.

Leigh destroys her own credibility on page 4 of the novel when Patty Renoir, the alleged Monroe intimate, says that the day before Monroe died, she told Renoir to keep the letters secret for 40 years, and "40 was her age then." Actually, Monroe died August 5, 1962 at the age of 36. As for Kennedy, Leigh has her write to Monroe, "But although she is my sister and



I love her, I seem unable to confide in her, as I am in you." Kennedy, who spent the last years of her life as a book editor, would never let a sentence like that get by without correcting the problem of parallel structure. *Sic transit* credibility.

The Secret Letters is a speculative rehash of tired factoids that stereotype Marilyn Monroe as the queen of the Hollywood blow job, and Jacqueline Kennedy as the manipulative cold fish behind the throne of Camelot. Why bother? ▼

MUSIC

Adult. entertainment



Adult. — yes, that's a period in the band name — hate being labeled 'electroclash.' And considering that the Detroit duo have been around longer than the term itself, it's understandable. However, whether they like it or not, the group has been lumped in with other retro-electro bandwagoners — which is unfortunate. Having formed in 1998, they're the leaders, not the followers. Long before anyone else thought it would be cool to merge early-'80s analog synthesizer and drum-machine sounds with robotic, icy, monotone female vocals, Adult. were already doing it. After several singles and the remix compilation *Resuscitation*, Adult. have just released *Anxiety Always*, their first proper full-length album. Adult. will be playing this Wednesday, May 7, at Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th St. at Mission. Tickets are \$10. — Adrian Roberts

MUSIC

In 'Slava's footsteps

Han-Na Chang follows her teacher into Prokofiev

by Tim Pfaff

Giants still walked the Earth when the classics of last century's Russian music were composed. Then, composers with urgent things to say had exemplary performers to inspire and realize their music, and their powerful collaborations are literally a matter of historical record. The last of the great performers to survive, cellist-conductor Mstislav Rostropovich, remains among us, still working — and rearing a new generation of players.

One envies them, and doesn't. The bar, improbably, has been raised. The same, Olympian level of playing is expected — it's what listeners know — while today's players are also held to standards that are the product of the wider circulation of scores and recordings, a half-century of competition-based playing "standards," and the sheer familiarity of this once new music today. When "Slava," Gilels, Richter, or Oistrakh brought out a new composition, if the occasional printed note fell victim to the dead, few noticed and fewer minded. As recent adventures in empire-building have demonstrated, when superpowers set out to create new worlds, shit happens.

So the greater the wonder that, with her fourth CD — of Prokofiev's *Sinfonia Concertante for Cello and Orchestra*, paired with the composer's Cello Sonata, Op. 119 (EMI) — Han-Na Chang, not yet 20, has sailed confidently over that new, higher bar. In the CD notes, Han-Na claims that the *Sinfonia* (Prokofiev's third version of his cello concerto) fully exploits the cello's sonorities and capabilities.

Rostropovich, one of Han-Na's teachers, played the premieres of all three versions of the work, and, for better and worse for his suc-



cessors, advised Prokofiev on what the cello could do. She, in turn, seems to luxuriate in the challenges, leaping the endless technical hurdles with power to spare, finding the sweetness and playfulness, the power and gravity, in this protean work, and blending them seamlessly.

The rock-solid tone — and bite, like a bee sting — of Han-Na's entrance in the *Sinfonia* is reminiscent of Rostropovich without seeming imitative. Han-Na breathes fire the same way Slava did, but winks rather more convincingly. That's not to say that this is girlish playing. When Prokofiev plays rough, so does Han-Na, but she also captures the sardonic humor and fleeting moments of tenderness that are central to Prokofiev's expressive vocabulary. Right up to the *Sinfonia*'s furious final passage, executed in a register so high it sounds like a violin, she wrestles down this unruly score with acuity and largesse of spirit.

Performances as keen as this don't happen in a vacuum. Han-Na is supported, and then some, by buoyant, propulsive, equally acute playing from the London Symphony Orchestra, under Antonio Pappano, who is quickly proving himself one of the most versatile musicians around. The sense of two highly spontaneous musicians pushing each other to greater heights is palpable.

The more intimate but as mer-

curial C-Major Cello Sonata brings out more aspects of this fascinating musical partnership. Pappano's piano-playing is good enough that he could quit his day job, yet both musicians submerge their strong personalities into the collaboration in an almost eerie way. At times, one almost loses track of who's playing. The opening tempo marking, Andante grave, can't contain this sonata's exuberance long, and Han-Na and Pappano quickly lose themselves in this robust, big-hearted piece.

**Great shakes**

Almost simultaneously, EMI released David Oistrakh's legendary fourth and final recording of Brahms' Violin Concerto, with the Cleveland Orchestra in its glory days under George Szell (paired with the Sonata No. 3, accompanied by pianist Vladimir Yampolsky) on its *Great Recordings of the Century* series. Many GROCs are issued while the "old" versions are still on the shelf, but these treasured recordings (from 1969 and '74, respectively) have been inexplicably absent from the catalog for years. Hearing these recordings again came as something of a shock.

Like his friend and frequent colleague Rostropovich, Oistrakh was one of those Russian athletes of their instruments, and cosmonauts of a brave new musical world, whose like we may never see again. There's something almost frightening about the sound the stocky, Odessa-born violinist gets out of his instrument: rich, muscular, dense and imperious (but not imperialistic); the composer always came first.

This is Brahms handed down from on high, about which two words of caution. First, you'll never forget it. Second, I almost broke my eyebrows following Ois-

trakh through the stratospheric passages of the Adagio. How musicians with such forceful artistic personalities could play like that and still keep their eye squarely on the composer and work is beyond explanation, but it is perfectly demonstrated here. The occasional wild note is but a reminder of the deep humanity of musicianship as spontaneous and masterful as this. ▼

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The art of Ewa Podles

by Jason Serinus

Contralto Ewa Podles is a short, somewhat dumpy woman of indeterminate age who, in street clothes, would hardly be taken for anyone special. Her stage mannerisms, at least as exhibited in a recent Cal Performances Berkeley recital, are decidedly old-fashioned: stand there and give it all you've got, stretch the arms out at emotional climaxes, and end with right hand and head tossed high. But give the woman some music, especially something challenging like a 20-notes-a-second coloratura aria by Handel or Vivaldi, or a tragic number by Chopin, Tchaikovsky or Rachmaninoff, and musical revelation is in order.

Podles' stage persona is a miracle, a powerhouse of voice and technique that comes along once every 20 years or so. Equipped with a three-octave range, Podles easily negotiates between deep chest-tones, a dark and somewhat veiled middle range, and a shin-

ing, free top. Most astoundingly, she voices everything with a sheer force and energetic outlay that bring to mind military analogies peculiarly appropriate for the various warrior-trouser-roles she sometimes plays onstage.

Podles was discovered in the US by the late Reverend Dr. Hosaiah Williams, founder of Oakland's Four Seasons Concerts. Williams brought her over at a time when she was virtually unknown. San Francisco caught on, and Podles' Northern California appearances were often sell-outs. As the word spread, Podles' appearances extended to such notable venues as La Scala, the Metropolitan Opera, the Staatsoper Berlin, and Teatro La Fenice. New York audiences, who have grown to love her, have been waiting for several years for her New York Philharmonic performance, in a new work by Penderecki whose premiere has been continuously postponed.

Though record companies were slow at first to get the mes-

page 36 ►

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OUT & ABOUT



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Calendare by Mark Mardon



Local San Francisco drag queen rock 'n' roll band Pepperspray

Behind the Makeup

The world at large has yet to discover Pepperspray, but here in San Francisco, the band is stinging eyes and making a scene. They ought to be arrested! When I caught them out in early March at the "Sadie Hawkins Costume & Dance Party" at Club Galia, they slammed in glamourous trannypunk style, delivering such bleak/angry/tortured kickass covers as The Ramones' "I Wanna Be Sedated," Blondie's "I'm Not Livin' in the Real World," Smashing Pumpkins' "Bullets With Butterfly Wings (Rat in a Cage)" and the ultimate rendition of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit." Cover bands don't get better than this. The fact is, for this bunch covers are a lark. They make doing them look like a snap. Each member of the band is a seriously brilliant musical/performance talent, tested repeatedly and proven beyond a doubt. They're the creme of the indie-punk, tranny-rock scene hereabouts. Screw Hedwig & Co. — this is the real tranny-rock hit in town. Pepper Spray rules, or would if more people got to know the band.

As luck would have it, you can meet the Pepperspray divas, and learn what they're covering up with their wigs and dresses, when the Harvey Milk Institute launches its new "Behind the Makeup" series this Friday, May 2 at The Center. "While drag queens and kings are often at the mic," says the event promo, "it can be a rarity to find them speaking in their own voices or telling their own stories."

True enough. While the gals at Trannyshack blather on about their tragic lives — Poor darlings! — unless you mingle with them backstage, getting glimpses of their real identities as they strip clothes and fragile egos, you don't get to know their inner whatever. That's especially true with Pepperspray stars Princess Kennedy, Precious Moments, Peggy L'Eggs, Jordan L'Moore and Tinkle, all of whom float high above the masses, on clouds of something or other, looking down at us peons and laughing their asses off. How do we mere mortals get up close and personal with such goddesses?

Why, by going to this "Behind the Makeup" gig, which will expose these deities for the vulnerable souls they are, bringing them down to Earth for our close, critical examination. The Moderatrix for the event will be DJ Taffy D, known in polite circles as Kevin Schaub, Executive Director and Dean of Harvey Milk Institute. Donning a sleek, sequiny outfit of some sort, Taffy D will lead a discussion with the Pepperspray crew, probing into their private lives in an effort to draw out their "real" identities and stories. Expect this forum and music sampler to be anything but a drag. ▼

"Behind the Makeup" with Pepperspray takes place Friday, May 8, 8 p.m. at The Center, 1800 Market St. Tix: \$8-\$15 sliding. Call 865-5633 or visit www.harveymilk.org

Fri 2

'Faerie Birds' @ SomArts Cultural Center

Dance Naganuma performs "Faerie Birds," a collision of visual art and modern dance, in collaboration with composer Guillermo Galindo, musician Joel Davel, and lighting designer Dale MacDonald. Featuring dancers Claudine Naganuma, Leslie Braithwaite, Jose Ivan Ibarra, Susan Yee, Kyla James, Karin Drucker, Prima Cristofalo, Sierra Joe Lash, and Hiroko Tamano. \$15. 8pm. Thru May 4. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th). Tix: 864-4120.

'Advanced Gay Male Dating' @ The Center

Jamie Moran leads a Harvey Milk Institute workshop in "Advanced Issues in Gay Male Dating," using examination, exploration and group sharing to focus on issues that arise following four months of initial dating. \$20. 7-10pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

Sat 3

Other Cinema @ ATA Gallery

Other Cinema reclaims the Mayday spirit with a fistful of feisty pieces including Street Rec's "Re-Tooling Dissent," the Yes Men's "Incredibly Stupid Stunt" (a hilarious hoax perpetrated at the WTO), and Rev. Billy railing against the Disney Store's labor practices. Plus: Surveillance Camera Players, "Reception of the Rings of Free Trade" and more. Reception with DJ Pod and the Neighborhood Base Coalition. 8.5pm. 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

'Cinco de Mayo' @ Studio Z. tv

Futura, Aguilas, & El Ambiente present "Cinco de Mayo," a dance party with DJs Salvador and Alexander, the exclusive pre-concert dance party for Christina Aguilera and Justin Timberlake ("The Justified/Stripped Tour," Oakland Arena, June 6). Win tickets, CDs, posters. Christina Aguilera look-a-like contest. Official CD release party for BMG recording artist Pablo Montero's new album. Go gos. appetizers. \$10. 9pm-4am. 21+ w/ID. 314 Eleventh St. (btwn Folsom & Harrison). Info: 665-6715; www.futurasf.com

'Mysterious Skin' @ NCTC

Opening night: New Conservatory Theater Center's Pride Season 8 presents the world premiere of the drama *Mysterious Skin* by Prince Gomolivlas, adapted from the novel by Scott Heim, directed by Arturo Catricala. The play follows the story of an 18-year-old Kansan searching for answers to traumatic events in his childhood. All trails lead to a New York hustler who holds the key to the terrifying truth. \$18-\$28 (\$38 opening & post-show reception). 8pm (2pm Sun). 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix: info: 861-8972; www.nctc.org

Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus

The acclaimed Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus perform their 2003 Spring Concert, entitled "Ah, Such Slings and Arrows," with classic and contemporary musical reflections on love, lust, and life. 8pm. Lake Merritt Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Ave, Oakland. They also perform on Sunday, May 4, 4pm, at San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. \$15 donation. Tix: (800) 706-2389

SF Leather Dykes @ Space 550

Back by popular demand, the San Francisco Leather Dyke Family Charities presents the "2003 SF Leather Dyke Daddy & SF Leather Dyke Diva Contest." Entertainment & surprises. Induction of the SF leather community's new titleholders, Dyke Diva &

Dyke Daddy 2003! \$10 adv., \$15 weekend of event. 4-7pm. 550 Barneveld Ave. An after-the-contest, female-focused play party happens at 9pm at The Scenery, with special shuttle from SF to Scenery and back available. Party: \$20 adv.; \$25 contest weekend. Shuttle: \$7 adv., \$10 contest weekend. Tix at Mr. S Leather & Madame S Leather, Daddy's Bar (SF), Boadecia's Books (Berkeley), Bench & Bar (Oakland) & Leather Masters (San Jose).

'Scabaret' @ Jon Sims Center

"Scabaret," an original shock/rock opera with live music, magic, drama and dancing. It tells the tale of a dark America through dysfunctional family vignettes, pop-culture satires, and abstract working-class scenarios. \$10-\$15 sliding. 9pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, Info: www.scabaret.com

HMI @ The Center

Harvey Milk Institute workshop: "Polaroid Image Transfer" with Iris Sandkuhler. The Vivitar image-transfer camera creates mysterious, muted prints. Bring a selection of 35mm slides. \$30 + \$25 materials fee. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

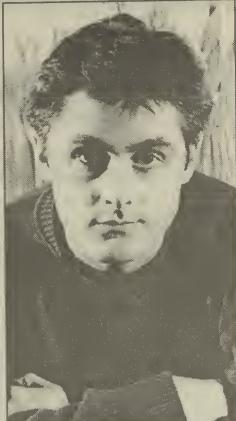
Sun 4

SF Hiking Club @ Oat Hill Mine Trail

Join other outdoors lovers for an Oat Hill Mine Trail Hike in the upper Napa Valley. Trace the route of cinnabar miners following the rocky contours of the Palisades. Moderately strenuous 9-mile hike with 1,900-ft elevation gain. Meet 8:45am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

'Exotic Sounds of France' @ Sha'r Zahav

Congregation Sha'r Zahav presents "Exotic Sounds of France." The Mishkan Chamber Music Series. Program: Ernest Bloch, *Baal Shem Suite*; Camille Saint-Saens, *Violins dans le Soir*; Claude Debussy, *Chansons de Bilitis*; and Maurice Ravel, *Piano*



Joseph Parks plays in the world premiere of *Mysterious Skin* by Prince Gomolivlas, adapted from the novel by Scott Heim, directed by Arturo Catricala, at New Conservatory Theatre Center. See Saturday.

Trio. Featuring Ruth Rainero, soprano, Randall Weiss, violin, Victoria Ehrlich, cello, and Robert Schwartz, piano. \$15-\$20. 4pm. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th). Info: 861-6932; www.shaarzahav.org

Glen Helfand/Larry Sultan @ Headlands Center, Sausalito

Artist talk: "Beyond the Valley of the Malls: The Poetics of the San Fernando Valley," in which writer, critic and current Headlands Center Artist-in-Residence Glen Helfand joins famed photographer Larry Sultan to examine the aesthetics of the surreal cul-de-sacs and shopping-mall food courts where they grew up. They will present images and discuss the shifting notions of the Southland as conveyed in contemporary student art in the Golden State. \$10 (\$8 students/seniors/HCA members). 4pm. Headlands Center for the Arts, Eastwing, Building 944, 944 Fort Barry, Sausalito. Info: (415) 331-2787; www.headlands.org

'Beach Fiesta' @ Marlene's

Fernando Robles and Jolene Alittle Moore present the third annual "Cinco De Mayo Beach Fiesta," a party and a campy drag show, along with a raffle. Featuring "The Chica Diva Show & Contest." Proceeds go to Larkin Street Youth Services and the Positive Resource Center. Last year's show raised more than \$2,000. Help exceed that amount this year. 5pm party; 6pm show. 488 Hayes St.



"Matthew," by Daniel Nicoletta, part of the Harvey Milk Institute's "Queer Photo Salon" at The Center. See Thursday.

Daniel Nicoletta



Dancers with Alma Esperanza Cunningham Movement bow to Bowie at Dance Mission. See Sunday.

Cunningham Movement @ Dance Mission

Alma Esperanza Cunningham kicks off her company's second feature with three world premieres: "Stardust," a suite set to the music of David Bowie, "Sound and Space," with sound score by local composer David Maloy, and "Suchness," a solo inspired by the irony of circumstance and faith. \$12-\$15 sliding. 7pm. 3316 24th St. Tix/info: 305-8912.

Mon 5

Queer Jitterbugs @ The Center

Queer Jitterbugs and the Harvey Milk Institute present "Queer Lindy Hop Swing Class," a four-week program. 7pm "Level 1 Beginners" Lindy Hop basics including 8-count swing out, Circle, Charleston, and 6-count East Coast Swing. 8pm "Level 1 Plus" turns, Charleston, musicality, connection. 9pm "Level 2" fancy moves, musicality, connection and more. \$13 drop in. Under-21 half off. \$40 pre-pay, \$70 couple. Volunteers free. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

'Art of Seduction — Women' @ The Center

Harvey Milk Institute Class: "The Art of Seduction: For Women," with Simone de la Getto. Unveil the sexy, sassy, fabulous performer within you. \$35-\$50 sliding. Two Mondays (May 5 & 12), 6:30-9:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

Left Coast Chamber Ensemble @ Green Room

The Chamber Music Partnership, Inc. presents the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble in "Quintets for Clarinet & Strings: Old, Newer and Newest," featuring the world premiere of "Under the Influence" by Kurt Rohde as well as works by Johannes Brahms and Paul Hindemith. \$19 (\$14 students/seniors). 8pm. Green Room, War Memorial Performing Arts Center, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 642-8054; www.ChamberMusicPartn.org

Tue 6

Michael Lowenthal & Scott Heim @ The Center

The Harvey Milk Institute presents a reading and reception for authors Michael Lowenthal (*Avoidance*, Graywolf Press, 2002; *The Same Embrace*, Dutton, 1998) and Scott Heim (*Mysterious Skin* and *In Awe*). \$8-\$15 sliding. 7:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

Wed 7

'Boyfriends from Hell' @ ADL Bookstore

Reading and booksigning with Editor Kevin Bentley and contributors to

Boyfriends from Hell: True Tales of Tainted Lovers, Disastrous Dates, and Love Gone Wrong, including Jim Coughenour, Donald Hatch, Joseph Manera, and Simon Sheppard. Free. 7pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891.

Kenni & Friends @ Bazaar Cafe

Kenni & Friends host the "Bazaar Cafe GLBT Songwriter Series," featuring Irina Rivkin & Rebecca Crump of Making Waves and Storm Flore (Ross Street House of Music). No cover. 7pm. On California between 21st and 22nd. Info: 831-5620; www.kenni.com

'Miss Vera's Finishing School' @ The Center

Harvey Milk Institute and The Center present "How To Cross-Dress for Success: Miss Vera's Finishing School for Boys Who Want to Be Girls." Ten years ago Veronica Vera founded the world's first cross-dressing academy, in New York City. In this class, Miss Vera presents an academy overview. Learn lessons from fashion to fantasy, sex ed to etiquette. Be guided by students' case histories; learn how the academy came to be and who are its teachers; what is in place in the transgender movement; share recommended resources; Q&A; and book signing. All genders welcome. There will be a test. Veronica Vera was a sex journalist and "the thinking man's porn star." She is a sex workers' rights advocate and is on the executive board for Feminists for Free Expression. \$8-\$15 Sliding. 6:30-9:30pm. The Center, Room 300. Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

Thu 8

'Queer Photo Salon' @ The Center

The Harvey Milk Institute hosts the Spring 2003 "Queer Photo Salon," curated by Chloe Atkins. Featuring Daniel Nicoletta (who began his dazzling career out of Harvey Milk's Castro Street Camera store); Honey Lee Cottrell ("wowed the world with her edgy — way ahead of their time — photographs of lesbians during the formative years of the contemporary queer movement," says Nicoletta); and Vancouver based artist and designer Jamie Griffiths, who has exhibited in London, New York and Paris, and been compared to both Robert Mapplethorpe and Joel Peter Witkin.

\$5-\$20 sliding (NOTAFL0). 7:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

'LIT @ JSC'

The Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents "LIT @ JSC," readings by writers Elana Dykewomon and Sada Burch. Dykewomon is a cultural worker and social-justice activist whose books include *Moon Creek Road* (a collection of stories, hot off the press), *Riverfinger Women, Nothing Will Be As Sweet As The Taste — Selected Poems*, and the Jewish lesbian historical novel *Beyond the Pale*, which received Lambda and Ferro-Grumley

(Gay & Lesbian Publishers Triangle Assn.) prizes for lesbian fiction in 1998. Burch's *All the Things* is a compilation of vignettes set in the South from 1830-1860, just before the formal end of slavery in the US. \$7-\$12 (NOTAFL0). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Tix: 554-0402; jonsimsctr.org

'Oh My Goddess' @ Venue 9

Footloose Presents *Oh My Goddess*, written and performed by Sherry Glazer, as part of the third annual Women on the Way Festival, produced by Mary Alice Fry, directed by Rod Kaats. Glazer is the star and creator of Off-Broadway's longest-running one-person show, *Family Secrets*. In *Oh My Goddess*, she serves up satire as an antidote to the critical global condition. Using simple stories involving two multi-faceted, contrary characters, Glazer takes on the entire Judeo-Christian belief system based on Patriarchy and reminds us that the return of the mother is at hand. \$15-\$18 Thu & Sun; \$17-\$20 Fri & Sat. 8pm (7pm Sun). Thru June 1. Tix/info: 289-2000; www.venue9.com

Joan Baez @ Teatro ZinZanni

Folk singer Joan Baez joins Teatro ZinZanni's international cast under the elegant antique *spiegeltent* big top. Baez assumes a role created especially for her, that of hostess/chanteuse La Contessa ZinZanni. Also featuring Russian illusionist Eugeny Voronin (Maitre D), actor Scott Ferrante (Le Chef), Russian contortionist Svetlana, aerial artist Bianca Sapeto, Canadian trapeze artists Hélène Turcotte and Luc Martin, opera singer Kristin Clayton, and tap dancer Joe Orrach. Presented by One Reel. Ticket price includes five-course gourmet dinner. \$99 Wed, Thu & Sun; \$125 Fri & Sat. Pier 29, Embarcadero. Tix/info: 438-2668; www.zinzanni.org

Lucy Jane Bledsoe @ Modern Times Bookstore

Lucy Jane Bledsoe reads from *This Wild Silence*. When two sisters go on a winter expedition in the Sierra Nevada, the secret that has bound them for 30 years surfaces, forcing them to confront their shared paths with honesty. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. (at 20th St.). Info: 282-9246; moderntimesbookstore.com

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Pivot point

Corelli's sonatas given life by Manze

by Jason Serinus

Corelli: Violin Sonatas, Op. 5 - Andrew Manze, violin; Richard Egarr, harpsichord (Harmonia Mundi, 2 discs)

Just as the "high baroque" style of composition was approaching its peak, 47-year old Italian composer, teacher, and violinist Arcangelo Corelli published his set of 12 violin sonatas. The auspicious date was January 1, 1700. If Corelli's successors, who included his students Geminiani and Vivaldi as well as Bach and Handel, took the baroque style of melodic, highly ornamented composition one step farther, it was in no small part because they had as their foundation Corelli's pivotal violin sonatas. Indeed, as violinist Andrew Manze postulates in his highly articulate liner notes, in the same way lovers of bel canto opera date 20th-century performance style as "Before Callas" (BC) and "After Callas" (AC), so too can baroque sonatas be defined as pre- or post-Corelli.

This is gorgeous music, filled with carefully balanced harmonic invention and a weight of contemplation that deepens its beauty. What we hear, however, is considerably different from what Corelli originally set down in print. The first published score of Corelli's sonatas only hints at what he and other 18th-century

virtuosos made of his music.

The ultimate effect is of baroque performance hinged upon spontaneous embellishment, a free, improvisational approach to the printed score similar to the way a jazz musician might approach a classic song by Irving Berlin or Harold Arlen. Improvisation and embellishment are exactly what Corelli and other baroque composers expected of performers. Rarely did they write out ornamentation; when they did, it was intended more as a

model than as a blueprint to be slavishly copied.

In Corelli's case, a second edition of his sonatas, published in Amsterdam in 1710 by Estienne Roger, claims to contain the exact copious ornamentation that Corelli used when he played the 12 slow movements of his sonatas. Rather than copying Corelli's ornamentation and treating the music as a museum piece, Andrew Manze and Richard Egarr bring the sonatas to life by calling upon their own improvisatory skills and



vast knowledge of baroque practice, to create new versions.

Manze and Egarr are recognized masters of the baroque form. With a discography that includes Bach's Harpsichord Concertos and Violin Sonatas by Bach and Rebel, their set of Handel's complete Violin Sonatas received a Grammy nomination, Gramo-

phone Editor's Choice, and was called "the finest recording of Handel's violin sonatas ever made" by *International Record Review*, while their single disc of Pandolfi's Complete Violin Sonatas received both the prestigious 2000 Gramophone Award and a *Choc du Monde de la Musique*. Their revelatory interpretations are a far cry from the deadly St. Martins in the Fields versions that dominated the early music catalogue of an earlier generation. ▼

Ewa Podles

◀ page 33

sage, Podles has at this point assembled an impressive albeit scattered discography. Recordings include an amazing complete recording of Rossini's *Tancredi* on the bargain Naxos label. Her many collaborations with Marc Minkowski and Les Musiciens du Louvre include two Deutsche Grammophon recordings: Handel's *Ariodante* and Gluck's *Armide*. Other recent issues include *A Treasury of Polish Songs* with pianist Ewa Poblocka, Respighi's *Il Tramonto*, two recordings of Gluck's *Orfeo*, Mahler's Symphonies 2 & 3, Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky*, and a unanimously acclaimed all-Rossini disc. Podles' widely acclaimed *Mélodies Russes* CD



'The contralto is in her element.'

proves her a keen interpreter of Russian song.

Russian grandeur

A sampling of the artist's latest two recordings, both for the Hol-

lywood-based Delos label, suggests what's in store for those fortunate enough to hear Podles in person.

Ewa Podles: Russian Arias, her most recent disc, offers selections by Borodin, Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Shchedrin, and Stravinsky. Much of the repertoire is dark, dramatic fare, and the contralto is absolutely in her element. There is a grandeur to her singing, an intensity of emotion that speaks to the darkness of the Russian winter and the tragedy of existence. Nothing is half-baked or voiced simply for voice's sake. I don't know how Podles would sound singing happy little ditties, but in this music, she reigns supreme. Accompaniment is as idiomatic as one would wish.

Ewa Podles: Handel - Arias from Rinaldo & Orlando, her previous disc for Delos, shows her coloratura as well as lyric side. It begins with a knockout aria, "Venti turbini" from *Rinaldo* (1711). Hold onto your turbands, boys and girls, you're in for quite a ride. The character Rinaldo, origi-

nally sung by the castrato Niccolini, here summons forth winds and hurricanes in an astounding vocal *tour de force* that includes energetic exchanges between solo violin and bassoon. The appellation "a force of nature," frequently applied to Podles, certainly rings true in this case. The transition from massive chest tones to blazing high notes, with every run and phrase perfectly articulated, amounts to true Golden Age singing.

The next aria from *Rinaldo*, "Caro sposa," shows the other side of Podles. Praised by Charles Burney as "by many degrees the most pathetic song, and with the richest accompaniment, which had been then heard in England," it is voiced with perfect and affecting legato.

Similar laudatory commentary applies to the remainder of the singing. While the heavier accompaniment of modern instruments works well with Podles' instrument, the disc whets the appetite for recordings employing period instruments. ▼

Florez on CD

◀ Arts cover

late Alfredo Kraus sing Tonio (in French) at Lyric Opera of Chicago. There is no substitute for a voice heard live in an opera house; Kraus' Cs rang out like the sound of bells, and produced a most graphic *frisson* in this listener. Florez turns me on in other ways. For instance, there is his melting lyricism in the album's title tune (from *Elisir d'amore*), the way he employs portamento, "carrying" the voice through a phrase, using his endless breath to shape the emotional meaning of this beautiful aria.

'Siberian' husky

The inadequacies of the booklet — a biography of the tenor, but no notes on the music — might make the uninitiated boggle before things like Potoski's aria from Donizetti's *Elisabetta*, or Tebaldo's scene from Bellini's *Capuleti e i Montecchi*. The latter is *Romeo and Juliet*, in which there is no character named Tebaldo; he's the librettist's version of Paris, a necessary tenor role because the leads in Bellini's early work were written for two women. *Elisabetta* is not a separate, newly-discovered opera, but a reworking of Donizetti's early Russian piece with my all-time favorite nutty opera title, *Eight Months in Two Hours, or the Siberian Exiles*.

Nonetheless, both strenuous scenes are delivered with that Florez trademark, the ability to vault into the upper register without struggling through that transition called the "passaggio." He simply



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sings from bottom to top effortlessly, without a break. The high notes ring out cleanly, the pitch is dead on the mark, and coloratura is tossed off as if it posed no problems.

What really sells Florez to me — not that the drop-dead dark curls, bedroom eyes and sexy mouth are chopped liver — is his sweet-toned expressiveness. Many so-called bel canto tenors have a monochromatic, or worse, an ugly sound. (Think of Bruce Ford or Rocky Blake.) Florez not only makes agreeable noises at all times, but has the ability to speak directly to the listener. The long scene from Bellini's *La Sonnambula*, where poor Elvino thinks his beloved has betrayed him, breaks your heart, ranging as it does from jealous anger to passionate despair. You want to put your arms around the guy and tell him everything is going to be okay.

I don't know about you, but I can't wait until June. ▼

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Telling silences

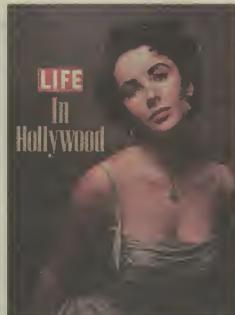
In 'Life's Hollywood, there are no homos

by Tavo Amador

For much of the last century, *Life* magazine chronicled Hollywood and its place in America and the world. Film stars frequently graced its cover. *Life in Hollywood* (Life Books, \$24.95) is a compendium of pictures and brief articles ranging from silent films to the '90s, with the bulk of the material covering Tinseltown's Golden Age.

For the most part, the selection of photographs by such masters as George Hurrell, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Clarence Sinclair Bull, Edward Steichen, Peter Stackpole, Gordon Parks, and Philippe Halsman are splendid, as are the short articles and captions. The first chapter shows what the town looked like before the movies, then discusses the impact Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., and others had on popular culture.

Another section focuses on the great icons of the screen, from Pickford and Shirley Temple to Jack Nicholson. The brief assessment of these luminaries is often insightful. James Cagney, for example, is hailed as "the most electrifying performer in the history of motion pictures, entirely original." On Marlon Brando: "Simply put, movies and movie actors have never been the same since Brando." Or, "Nothing would keep Lu-



a tense Rock Hudson and wary Mae West preparing to sing "Baby, It's Cold Outside" at the 1958 ceremony shows how hard they worked to make it look like so much fun.

Couples and clans

The book includes an interesting section on the making of 1952's *High Noon*, filmed against the backdrop of the House Un-American Activities Committee Communist witch-hunts, written by star Gary Cooper's daughter, Maria Cooper Janis. Sections also highlight screen couples, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers to Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas, and Hollywood clans, from John Drew to Drew Barrymore, the Hustons, Fonda, and the Garland-Minnelli family.



Screen couples highlighted include Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau.

cille LeSueur of San Antonio from being Joan Crawford of Hollywood. And because her need was so palpable, you never, ever could take your eyes off her. By the end, Lucille LeSueur had vanished, and there was only Joan Crawford."

On Meryl Streep: "The consummate actress... brings to each part a dazzling virtuosity, an unequalled commitment and a vivid intelligence. She has made the motion picture a magical event." On the other hand, the discussion of Elizabeth Taylor as being a strong contender for the screen's greatest beauty is flawed by a poor photograph of her. Taylor is also on the book's cover, but looks sullen and bored.

The section on the birth of the Oscars and the unforeseen significance of the awards is fascinating. The picture of Joan Fontaine, staring pensively at her statuette, is touching, while the candid one of

Cary Grant is shown helping gossip columnist Hedda Hopper move into her new home, but no mention is made of his longtime affair with Randolph Scott. At one point, the two stars lived together in a house they jointly owned, and there is a famous photograph of one of them washing the dishes after dinner while the other one dries. That picture is missing.

An argument can be made that the personal lives of the stars is irrelevant. But this book discusses Errol Flynn's scandalous affair with an underage girl, and Katharine Hepburn's "dear" friendship with Spencer Tracy. By being so selective in what they reveal, the authors omit the important influence gay men and lesbians had in shaping images and developing role models for much of the century chronicled. They deny us our history.

Buy this book for the photos, but don't for a minute think it tells — or shows — the true story of life in Hollywood. ▶



Faye Dunaway considers her '77 Oscar for *Network*, on the morning after.

Terry O'Neill

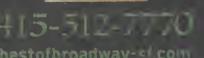
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Whoops & hollers in DC

Californians triumph at ABW

by Mister Marcus

Whoops and hollers erupted at the Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. last Sunday evening, April 27, when it was announced that Bill Mitchell of San Diego became the 2003 American Leather Man, Sheryl Dagon of San Diego won the American Leather Woman title and San Francisco's Jeff Nowak was chosen American Leather Boy. As the names were announced, the MC stated, "It looks like a California sweep," and indeed it was.

The magnificent ABW 2003 weekend culminated with the announcement of the winners in ABW's first-ever sold-out weekend. Americans and many foreigners were there too when it was announced that ABW 2003 would add yet another category, American Leather Girl.

In addition, leather activist Andy Anderson in Toronto released the news that representatives of Canadian provinces will launch a similar leather weekend, entitled Canadian Brotherhood Weekend, also naming Canadian Leather Man, Canadian Leather Woman and Canadian Leather Boy. Details will be forthcoming very soon.

The weather was rainy most of the weekend, but Sunday morning dawned sunny and bright. Throughout the day and into the night, play parties, lots of schmoozing by IML 2003 hopefuls, a sit-down banquet, cocktail parties and receptions by various groups and brunches predominated, and the leather bars in D.C. were packed to the rafters.

The new producers of ABW proved their mettle with a superb weekend that also saw a basket auction for the winners' travel fund that amounted to \$7,630. In addition, some \$8,724 was raised through auction items for Judy Tallwing McCarthy's Dandelion animal shelter in northern Washington State. The ABW attendees were generous as always.

Miss "A.J." of Washington, D.C. was awarded the ABW Volunteer Award of the weekend.

The runner-ups for the Leatherman titles were: Shane



American Leather Woman Sheryl waves to the adoring audience with Bill Mitchell American Leather Man, right, and Jeff Nowak, kneeling, American Leather Boy 2003. It was a California sweep at ABW 2003.

Linden, first runner-up, and Bill Coover, second runner-up.

For the women, the first runner-up was Dean "Vibby" Bramlett, and the second runner-up was Dawn "Shameless".

In the Boy category, Chuck Brackett was the first runner-up, and he also earned the Brotherhood award; and Keith Pallanan was the second runner-up.

It was interesting to note that both Bill Mitchell and Sheryl won the Brotherhood Awards in their categories. It is rare indeed, that contenders with both the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Awards win the title as well.

Frank Nowicki performed the MC duties with aplomb and hordes of volunteers performed magnificently. If there were any "behind the scenes" glitches, they were never known to the audience.

ence.

Jo Anne of New York and Lenny Broberg did superb jobs of auctioning off the baskets of the contestants and the judges.

It was a magnificent weekend and everyone agreed that ABW has garnered the support of the entire leather nation. The staff of the Washington Plaza Hotel outdid themselves (thanks, Patrick!) and all the "usual suspects" from the U.S. and Canada were pleased that the entire weekend went so well. All that is, except for a certain judge who missed his arrival time by four whole hours due to two passengers on his flight, one with a stroke, another with an epileptic experience that caused his non-stop flight to land in Denver twice to take the two afflicted passengers to the hospital in Denver.

If you have never attended American Brotherhood Weekend, it is recommended that you make **next page ▶**

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, May 2-4

Regiment of the Black & Tans uniform club presents their "Spring Maneuvers" weekend. For info, click on www.blackandtans.org.

Leather Network, Inc. stages "Boys Training Camp 5" this weekend in the Dallas, Texas area. Click on www.leathernetwork.com for info.

Utica Tri's MC in Utica, NY celebrate their 17th anniversary all weekend with a myriad of fun events. Click on www.UticaTri.com.

Saturday, May 3

Dyke Diva and Dyke Daddy contest at 550 Barnard Avenue Saturday night. Meet & Greet the contestants on Friday at Daddy's followed by a play party at the Scenery in Hayward and a victory brunch at Harvey's SOMA on Sunday.

Saturday, May 10

9th Annual Mr. Triple R Leather contest at the world-famous Russian River Resort (Triple R) tonight. Winner advances to compete at the 2003 North Coast Leather competition in Guerneville.

Wednesday, May 14

SM 101 training at the Powerhouse tonight. Cirrus from Mister S expounds on Electrical Play. All are welcome!

Weekend, May 16-18

The South Central Leather Sir/boy contest happens at the Dallas Eagle. It's the first regional competition for International Leather Sir/boy, to be held in St. Petersburg, Florida in October.

Thursday, May 23

Vince Edd of Seattle steps aside as Mr. Ebony in Leather at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago tonight. For info: www.mrcain.com.

Weekend, May 23-27

25th anniversary of International Mr. Leather in Chicago. They plan lots of surprises at the world's biggest leather competition. If all the titleholders send in their applications, there should be close to 60 hot men in the competition. Do your best to attend. Rooms are still available at the host hotel, the Palmer House.

POLKSTRASSE

Back in the saddle

Happy Cinco de Mayo!

by Sweet Lips

Well, I am finally going back to work after six weeks of mending following my recent mishap. On Saturday, May 3, I'll once again be pouring drinks at Kimo's, the legendary bar on the corner of Polk and Pine. Come in anytime between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., and I'll be there to serve you your morning pick-me-up. So come on down and wish me well as I get back in the swing of things. Special thanks to Kimo and Tyler for being so great while I was out.

Yes, Ms. Harlow is still doing her thing at Kimo's — especially at night with all the great bands in the Penthouse!

Our longtime friend Dick Deemer has also gone back to work. Dick left for his five-month job at the Fire Island Pines on Long Island, NY. I for one am going to miss you, dear!

Handsome and hunky Tim is back on the plank at the Cinch Saloon. You were sorely missed, honey! Of course, the Cinch still has "Ya Hear Me" Ms. Cowgirl Ronnie Lynn serving customers Mon.-Fri., 6 a.m. to Noon, and al-

ways happy to greet cowpokes with an early-morning cocktail. Goodness, I remember when I was Ms. Cowgirl #2 — years ago! You've got to love a girl in a saddle. You ride 'em, cowgirl!

Oh, and have you heard the latest about the Twin Peaks Saloon? After all these years, the popular bar in the Castro has been sold — to Jorge and Jeff, both of them very pleasant bartenders. Good luck, guys!

Here are a few events you should know about, so mark your calendars: On Sunday, May 4, the SF Imperial Council presents "South of the Border III - Cinco De Mayo," a beach fiesta, featuring "The Chica Diva Show & Contest." The fun happens at Marlena's Bar (488 Hayes St.), with a party at 5 p.m. and a show at 6 p.m. It's a benefit for the Positive Resources Center and Larkin Street Youth Services.

On Tuesday, May 6, the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center presents "A Tuesday in May," an annual gathering of friends and

the presentation of community awards, from 6-9 p.m. at the California Culinary Academy on lower Polk St. Absolute Empress Suzie Wong takes part in this one. For more information, call 292-3400.

On Saturday, May 10, at Club Rendez-Vous (1312 Polk St.), Martin Wong Lily Silk Productions presents "Asian Divas Go Across the Border," a stellar show with sizzling performances by superstars Suzie Wong, Tiger Lily, and China Silk, with special guest host Empress 19

Remy, plus guest performances by Empress Barbie & Emperor Berlin, The Rice Girls, Fernando, Mini Minerva, Phillip Evans, Mr. & Miss Gay Lance & Manley Lennox, Cher A Little Smith, Alexis Miranda, Kitty Glamour, Tianna D'Ville, Tita Aida, Ivanna Mann, Coco Butta and more. The reception starts at 8 p.m., and the show kicks off at 9 p.m. The event benefits The Asian Wellness Center and Positive Resource Center. Don't miss it!

Have a great Cinco de Mayo! ▼

Cocktail Hour



Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

your plans for the 2004 edition. This time around, four titles will be awarded and it should prove to be another exciting Spring weekend.

Bare Chest Calendar complete

Last Thursday, April 24, the search for the twelve men who will grace the pages of the 2004 SoMa Bare Chest Calendar ended with the competition for the cover spot. The runner-up will grace the back cover, and the calendar will make its debut in the leather mart at International Mr. Leather weekend in Chicago.

All 12 calendar men showed up, and the judges were the first to admit it was not an easy decision. When all the votes were tallied, Mr. December Chris Harrill came out the winner. He will be the 2003 cover man, and Mr. November David Lemier will be on the back cover.

Important IML notice

Bill Stadt, executive director of the IML 2003 competition, announced last week that all IML 2003 contenders should get their application forms in to IML headquarters as soon as possible.

It is incomprehensible (my words) that contestants are recalcitrant in submitting their applications. The deadline is May 15, and IML officials are waiting for your applications. Don't wait! Do it today!

Speaking of deadlines, if you're planning to attend the Golden Gate Guards MC 17th annual weekend run to Camp Mendocino from October 3 to 5, an early-bird price is being offered. The regular price for the weekend is \$160, but if you get your application in before May 18, it will only cost you \$120. After that, it will cost \$140 until September 17. The theme this year is "Moooo en Rouge," and promises to be a hilarious romp.

Send your payment to GGG



Mister Marcus

Chris Harrill, left, will grace the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar as Mr. Dec 2004. With him is runner-up David Lemier, who will adorn the back cover. The 2004 calendar debuts in the Leather Mart at IML 2003 in Chicago.

Run 2003, PO Box 14478, SF, CA 94114-0497. Do it today!

The summer months are on the way and with them, a myriad of leather events you will not want

to miss. Stay generous, helpful and caring. And for leather news from around the world, be sure to click on www.LeatherPage.com regularly. ▼

cheap* trick
an electro.rock.funk.oldschool.pop party

every Friday
The Stud @ 9th & Harrison 10-4am
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ADRIAN & the MYSTERIOUS D
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CATEGORY

- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

PARTING GLANCES

Gaylord's Noon Sat March 29
You in shorts, me in white hat. We exchanged greetings/energy. I want to know you. ☎ 72527

Peet's On Mkt-Sat 4/5
Me- in bright yellow running pants. You- on line and smiling. We spoke about the Embarcadero Farmers Mkt. Would love to see you again. ☎ 72550

Tue. AM 4/15/ SF Bound Bart
You really surprised me with your intense eye-lock as you got off at. I think I didn't think you had even noticed me. You, with bicycle, bone necklace, short light brown hair, Me, grey-black hair and moustache, blue and white striped shirt with grey hooded sweatshirt. ☎ 72560

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

I'm 48 5'9" 150# Work Out 3 Days
A week swimmer build, big arms, nice pecs, flat stomach, nice dick, smooth tight butt, into arts, zen, yoga, & life, I.N.S. other inshape guys to date. Age, race unimportant nice body cool attitude a must. HIV- ☎ 72528

Monogamous Muscular Man
Seeks SGM, HIV-neg., 45-60 for dating and mutual play in S.F. Face unimportant, physique is. I'm Asian, 5'7", 150#, mustache, smooth 40" chest, 30"waist. N.S. ☎ 72529

Cute Young Russian
Is looking for another cute intelligent Russian or European under 40 to share all the pleasures life has to offer. ☎ 72530

Latin Guy 4 U Versatile
38yrs. GLM smooth masculine versatile athletic body great butt brown skin looking a long-term relationship with GWM or GLM under 38yrs. masc. HIV + healthy at 5'8" to 5'11" weight proportioned to ht. Nice guy versatile. No drugs or smoking only. S/F. ☎ 72531

S/W HIV- 53 Oral Bottom
Bear Seeks 50+ HIV- oral top type n/d smoking ok. ☎ 72551

Slender And Masculine
Looking for another slender & masculine guy born after 1958 to get together regularly for films, food, and naked erotic fun. I swim and have a nice cock. ☎ 72552

Looking For Latino Boyfriend
Good looking GWM 35 looking for good looking Latino HIV- for relationship. No drugs, please. ☎ 72553

Asian
Younglooking GAM, 54y.o. 5'7"slim, caring, healthy, seeks older GWM for possible relationship. Enjoy quiet times, cooking, travelling. No smoking. ☎ 72561

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Remember, safe sex is hot sex! ☎ 72556

SEEKING ADVENTURE

-Hispanic Love Man-
(Oh where can you be?) I'm looking for the right Hispanic guy, for a relationship, etc. If hung A+. ☎ 72538

The Hottest Guy In Town

Even the sexiest guy in town is not

worth risking your life over. Always

play safe. Wear a condom and never

exchange bodily fluids. Remember,

safe sex is hot sex! ☎ 72556

WM 40's ISO...

Hungry, hot mouth to empty my balls.

No head games, no hassle, just good

sucking. Your place aroma, videos,

mirror A+. ☎ 72562

Pinned Nips Get Your Dick Hard???

Even the sexiest guy in town is not

worth risking your life over. Always

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exchange bodily fluids. Remember,

safe sex is hot sex! ☎ 72556

WM 40's ISO...

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sucking. Your place aroma, videos,

mirror A+. ☎ 72562

Daytime Telephone

Evening Telephone

State

Zip

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name

Address

City

Smooth Boyish Asian
Seeking smooth gym toned White male for mutual massage, jerk-off and oral service. Be my new play buddy! ☎ 72532

-Erotic Encounter-
Complimentary sensual massaged given to in-shape guys in 20s or 30s who need relief. Friendly WPM in East Bay wide provide you with relaxing tantric session. ☎ 72533

9 P.M. And I've Got To Have It:
A cock, a fist, balls in my mouth my dildo's not enough. I'm horny. Can't someone give this White, male bottom what he's begging for? ☎ 72534

*** Opposites Attract ***
Big-dick Italian top gets hard for bottom boys with small dicks and bubble butts. Any race. ☎ 72535

Oral Expert For Hung Guys
Seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not sex ad. Age, size, looks unimportant. Unimportant male companion. S 72554

Young European Bottom!
In search for a dominant top or tops to submit to any training or group scenes 5'10", 160lbs, full lips, cute baby face, tight hole. Be under 40. ☎ 72537

Use Your Mouth!
Masculine swimmer with nice cut cock and smooth 31 waist-butt needs oral service on both sides. Healthy HIV- guy 44 seeks healthy trim waist-ed guys 20 to 47 to make me feel good. ☎ 72539

Hung Guys Needed If You're
Hung 9 or 10 inches or more and your White, Hispanic or Italian, call me so we can get together. ☎ 72540

Do Your Weenie A Big Favor...
And stick it in my mouth. Clean healthy senior GWM with no teeth seeks big w/masc. guy. ☎ 72541

Mature Male CMT
Is looking for older male CMT over 40 for giving and receiving Swedish massage on a regular basis. ☎ 72542

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Remember, safe sex is hot sex! ☎ 72543

R.U. Lanky And U.C.
Is this mid 50s GWM would like to work you over. Be clean, any race, 20-40, and willing to have a good time. ☎ 72543

Hung Hispanic Guys Wanted!
If you're Hispanic and hung "8", "9" or "10" inches or more, call me to get serviced, party, watch videos etc. ☎ 72544

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175lbs, seeks well-built bottom with nice, round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 72555

The Sexiest Guy In Town
Even the sexiest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ 72556

Pinned Nips Get Your Dick Hard???

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exchange bodily fluids. Remember,

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WM 40's ISO...

Hungry, hot mouth to empty my balls.

No head games, no hassle, just good

sucking. Your place aroma, videos,

mirror A+. ☎ 72562

Daytime Telephone

Evening Telephone

State

Zip

Bluecollar White Cock sucker 40
Turned onto baseball players, coaches, umpires, esp college who like getting serviced in their sweaty uniforms, after game or practice seeking W/M 23-40 discreet, clean drug scene free can travel or host Batter Up! ☎ 72557

Outdoor Sex/Nude Beach Fun
GWM very fit and active sex buddies for outdoor j/o and sucking. We enjoy outdoors, hiking, cycling, beaches and nudist retreats. ☎ 72558

GJM 49 Near Lake Merritt
Seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not sex ad. Age, size, looks unimportant. Unimportant male companion. S 72554

Mature Smokers
WLM 47, 6', 165lbs, moderately hairy. ISO older male who is a regular cigar/ cigarette smoker. Enjoy deep kisses,affection & oral pleasures. No gay scenes or lifestyle. Body type not important. ☎ 72563

Asian For WM or Latin Males
Young cute Asian 5'9" 170lbs 30yrs in SJ, smooth body, nice bubble butt. One on one or 3some. Ready to meet hung bi/straight gay males for fun time. ☎ 72564

FETISHES

"Stroking For Hours"
Seeking masculine/average guy for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship. Drinking/partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. ☎ 72545

Young Cute Bottom To Submit*
To a dog training and/or submissive slave training by a cut but demanding master total obedience and cooperation guaranteed. Be under 40. The boy is 5'10", 160lbs, full lips, baby face. Very cute and eager. ☎ 72546

Italians Love Cheese!!
Goodlooking Italian 45yrs, 175lbs 5'11" interested in uncum men with lots of cheese. Any race 18-50yrs. Into other raunch also. San Jose area preferred. ☎ 72547

Drag Queens Cigars Ravish...
Me. Bi-male. Awesome, age 55. ISO femme drag-queens (21-40 only). 69, suck/fuck, be cigar-smokers, no drugs/alcohol- disease-free... ☎ 72548

Get It Out/ Up & I'm Down On!
Prelims a snap-every tough uncum heat (got 9.8 of possible 10); now I need your vote for BABO (Bay Area's Best Cock sucker) audition time on your stick pronto pls! ☎ 72549

Stocking For Hours
Seeking masculine/average guy for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship. Drinking/partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. ☎ 72559

Quadruple Threat And/Or Treat:
Drain balls, drain bladder, lick all sexual, real or imagined, off big balls, eat amazingly shit-free. ☎ 72565

Into Latex Sex
Latex sex is hot sex is safe sex! Always wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Play safe! ☎ 72566

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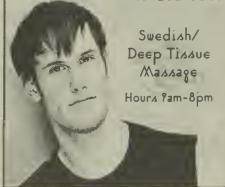
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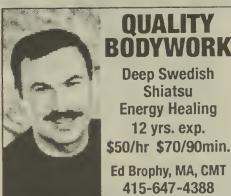
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ASIAN LOVER MAN

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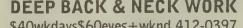
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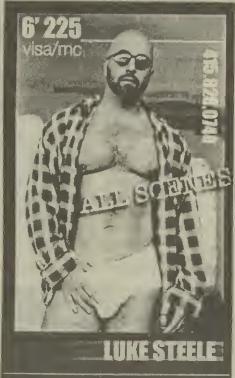
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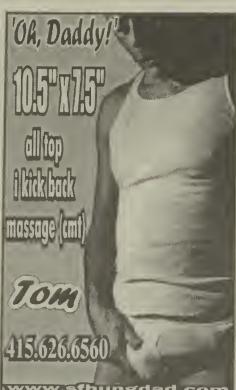
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23, 5'6", 135#, 7x6uncut, clean cut

Super smooth gym ripped body,

Very versatile, friendly & tasty

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SIDE EFFECTS REPORTED ON M4M!

- Constant shortness of breath at night
- Pressing need to buy more sheets
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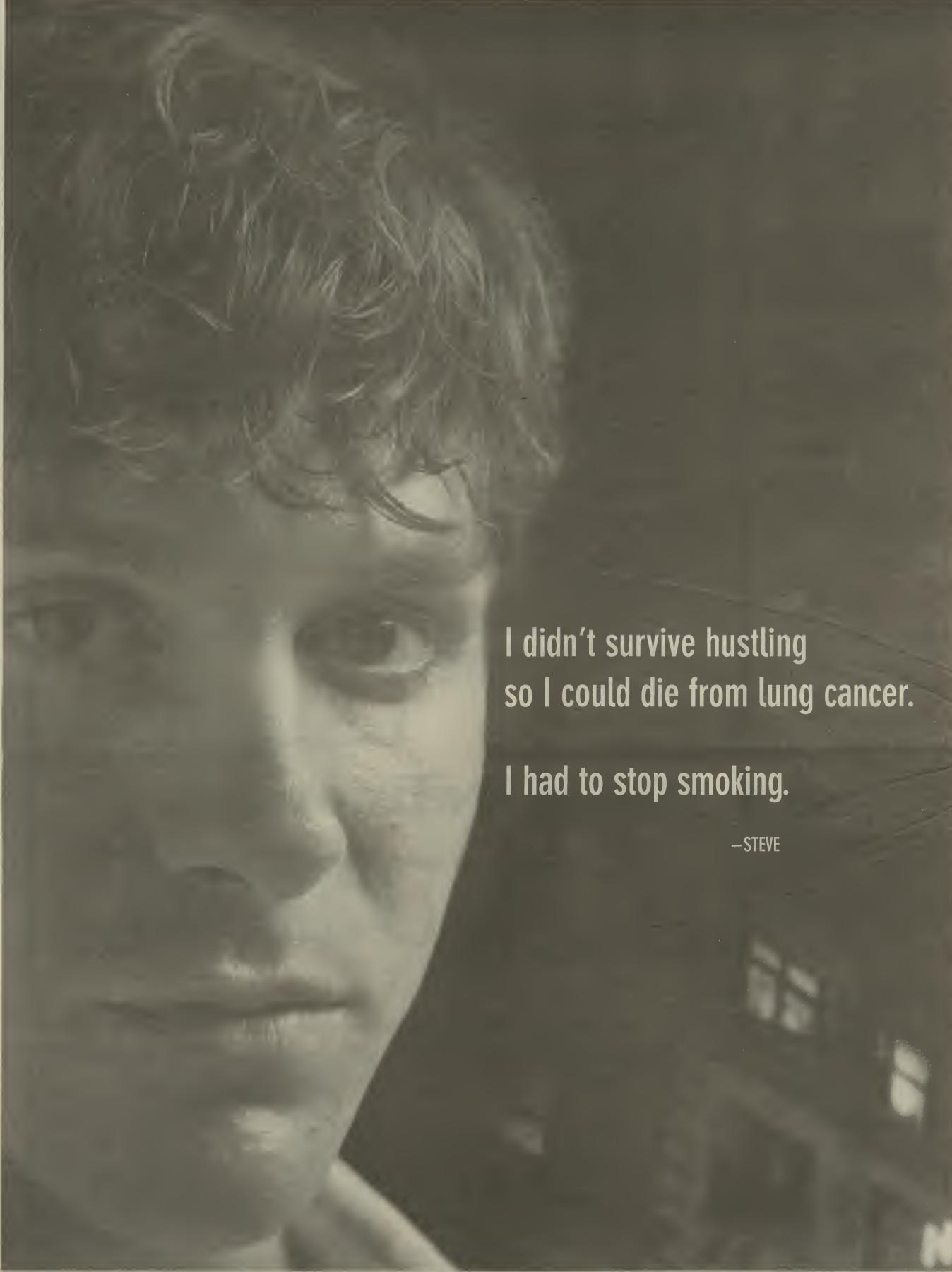
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so I could die from lung cancer.

I had to stop smoking.

—STEVE

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